

THE Anti-Slavery Reporter.

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The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

[The Editor, whilst grateful to all correspondents who may be kind enough to furnish him with information, desires to state that he is not responsible for the views stated by them, nor for quotations which may be inserted from other journals. The object of the REPORTER is to spread information, and articles are necessarily quoted which may contain views or statements for which their authors can alone be held responsible.]

MR. STANLEY IN ENGLAND.

SINCE our last issue the great explorer has been welcomed in England with almost regal honours. He has visited the QUEEN at Windsor Castle, been fêted by Societies and Corporations, and has been the lion of the season. He is now going through similar receptions in Scotland, and early next month he is to be married in Westminster Abbey to the lady of his choice. We print a few extracts from his speeches bearing upon Slave questions, and a *Resolution* passed by the Committee of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, respecting a regrettable incident that occurred at the Guildhall in the City of London, together with a correspondence relating thereto. Mr. STANLEY had evidently been strangely misinformed on matters with which he was not personally acquainted, and we feel sure that the Society of Friends, which has been the backbone of the Abolition movement for more than a hundred years, both in England and America, can well afford to take no notice of the curious charge made against that body by the discoverer of the Congo.

Mr. Stanley and the Anti-Slavery Society.

It was hoped that Mr. STANLEY, on his arrival in England, would have consented to give his experiences of the Slave-trade, and his views for stopping it, at a meeting in London, to be convened by the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY. On this subject the Secretary of the Society addressed an appeal to Mr. STANLEY, in January last, and to this he replied by

an extremely friendly letter, dated Cairo, 6th February, in which he said that he was then closely engaged upon his book,

"which I must get out of my hand before pledging myself to anything, be it banqueting or speaking. When I have finished it I shall remember you and your special needs, and will do my best to conform to your request."

Following up his former invitation, the Secretary addressed another letter to Mr. STANLEY, after his arrival in London, asking permission to call an Anti-Slavery Meeting for the purpose of hearing Mr. STANLEY, should he be able to spare an hour for the purpose. To this letter he received the following friendly reply:—

LONDON, 8th May, 1890.

DEAR MR. ALLEN,—I am sure you know that I am intensely interested in the Anti-Slavery movement, and would do anything in my power to promote the cause you have so much at heart.

Unfortunately, however, my book will be quite another month before it is published, and until then, so great is the pressure of work upon me, I am unable to do anything to conform to your wishes in the matter of a lecture.

Believe me, yours very truly,

HENRY M. STANLEY.

CHAS. H. ALLEN, Esq.

The matter was thus left in abeyance.

Mr. Stanley at the Guildhall, May 13, 1890.

(FROM *The Times*).

"I REMEMBER in 1878, in 1882, and in 1884, the scores of lectures I delivered, endeavouring to rouse sympathy in England for Africa. If they were not read or listened to here, the Continent listened to them and acted. You might have had the Congo, which by this would have paid you a hundred per cent., but you shrugged your shoulders and called me a dreamer. The Belgians took it, and now it is Belgium that is making a hundred per cent. The English might have had East Africa, but then journalists see as through an opaque glass, and the Germans absorbed the lion's share, and the latter cannot fail to win in the long run. The Germans have immense odds in their favour. They have a vigorous, wide-awake monarch. WISSMANN never heard of such things as Quakerism, Peace Societies, Protective combinations, anti-enterprise companies and namby-pamby journalism—the clogs of every honest endeavour in this country. It would be impossible for men like RALEIGH and DRAKE to live in this country nowadays, but in Germany there is ample room for them. In the presence of a German admiral or general one feels that there are men in this world who dare do their duty, and maintain in the face of all men that they mean to do it. The other day Mr. PEASE called the attention of the House of Commons to the alleged fact that the Imperial British East African Company were employing Slave-labour, and realising profit out of the goods borne by Slaves to the coast. He was quite ready to charge some of the noblest and most public-spirited of his countrymen with reaping profit from the misery of Slaves. He may know more of this case than I do, but I understood that these same gentlemen had contributed £12,000 to the release of 3,000

Slaves. Have the Quakers of England contributed 12,000 pence to rescuing their dark relatives from Slavery? No, but if you and I proceeded to their mansions in the north of England I could show you visible and substantial proofs that the purchases they annually make of ivory-handled table knives and forks, tooth, clothes, and hair brushes, ivory paper cutters, ivory backed hand mirrors, penholders, billiard balls, and such trifles, have contributed more than anything else to enrich the Arabs who have obtained that same ivory by murder of countless thousands, and devastation of the most fertile regions on the face of the globe. Let those who are eternally inveighing against the spirit of enterprise accept this whole truth from me—the beam against the mote. If our late expedition into darkest Africa will do no other good, it will serve to show that the luxurious in this country contribute more than anybody else to the perpetuation of a greater evil than ever the Slave-trade was in its palmy days. There is a body of men in this country, who, with an unrighteous self-exaltation, are continually thrusting themselves to demand popular applause by arraying themselves against all legitimate enterprise abroad. But I ask you if it was not by enterprise that this England emerged from barbarism, and whether it is not true that the hour the spirit of enterprise in this country is extinguished the hour of decadence begins. Sirs, about 500 English travellers and missionaries have left their bones in the last of the Continents. Among them are the names of MUNGO PARK, CLAPPERTON, LUCAS, GORDON, COMBER, HANNINGTON, PARKER, LIVINGSTONE, and MACKAY. Athwart Equatorial Africa there are 21 mission stations, and about 50 English missionaries at work, painfully plodding on in their frequently thankless tasks of impregnating the dull minds of Africans sodden with barbarism with the light of religious ideas. At last the capitalists of this country, stimulated into active sympathy with the prevailing feeling that the time has come and the hour has struck for civilisation to enter Africa, have begun to advance in three separate columns to attack the dark interior. Their purpose is to create roads into the fastnesses of cruelty and ignorance, to extinguish the devastating Slave-trade, to arrest the Arab kidnapper and man destroyer by making his trade an impossibility, and his profession wholly unnecessary, and substitute railways for Slave caravans, and lawful barter in lieu of robbery; to carry the merchant and the missionary securely and safely into the heart of the wasted regions, to redeem those still surviving from all fear of death and woe. I say then that he who rises to lift a voice against this goodly purpose of redemption and civilisation should be rebuked by every man in whose soul the Divine feeling of Christian charity is not quite dead.”

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING THERETO.

MR. PEASE'S LETTER TO THE PRESS.

SIR,—Will you kindly publish the following copy of a letter I have to-day addressed to Mr. STANLEY? I abstained from taking any part either in the debate or in the division on the late occasion when the proceedings of the East African Company were under discussion, nor am I aware of ever having said anything that reflected on the conduct of this company in connection with Slavery or anything else.

I am your obedient servant,

May 14.

ALFRED E. PEASE.

MR. PEASE TO MR. STANLEY.

9, EGERTON GARDENS, S.W., May 14, 1890.

SIR,—May I ask you to substantiate the charges you made against me at the

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9, EGERTON GARDENS, S.W., May 14, 1890.

SIR,—May I ask you to substantiate the charges you made against me at the

Guildhall last night by quoting anything I have ever said or insinuated against the British East African Company's proceedings or policy, either in public or in private; or if, as I am confident will be the case, you are unable to do this, may I ask you to withdraw as publicly as you have made it the charge contained in the following passage of your speech as reported in *The Times* and *The Daily News* of to-day's date? viz.:—

"The other day Mr. PEASE called the attention of the House of Commons to the alleged fact that the Imperial British East African Company were employing Slave labour, and realising profit out of the goods borne by Slaves to the coast. He was quite ready to charge some of the noblest and most public-spirited of his countrymen with reaping profit from the misery of Slaves. He may know more of this case than I do, but I understood that these same gentlemen had contributed £12,000 to the release of 3,000 Slaves. Have the Quakers of England contributed 12,000 pence to rescuing their dark relatives from Slavery? No."

The fairness or otherwise of the latter portion of your remarks, which refer to myself and "the Quakers of England" and the part they have played with regard to the Slave-trade, I can afford to leave to the judgment of the public.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. M. STANLEY, Esq.

ALFRED E. PEASE.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of this letter to *The Times* and *The Daily News*.

MR. STANLEY'S REPLY.

"34, DE VERE GARDENS, May 15, 1890.

"SIR,—You have just cause to complain of your name being quoted in connection with the utterly wrongful and unjust accusations against the Imperial British East Africa Company. I had written your name in my manuscript as the author of these accusations, but on going to the Guildhall I was told that it was another member, and lest I might make an error, I confined myself in my address to stating that 'A Member of Parliament had risen in the House of Commons.' After concluding my address a reporter begged for the manuscript, and I handed it to him, quite forgetting that your name still stood in it, which I deeply regret. But my charge against Quakerism still remains, not for any particular principle of the sect, but against the average principles which induce their professors to seize upon the skirts of the nation whenever it begins to rouse to action for just defence or worthy enterprise. Wanton war and wilful oppression are to be avoided, but no peace such as that of Menahem is needed yet awhile for Great Britain, and as I believe such would be the peace sought by Quakerism in any trouble between this and any other country on the Continent, such principles should be condemned. If you are of the PEASE family of Darlington you will remember my experience with them in 1878. With the same readiness that they listened to the absurd charges against me as promulgated by a well-known Socialist, you undertook to ask questions in the House of Commons lately respecting some supposed increase of the Slave-trade because of the enlistment of labourers for the Congo railway, and whether the survivors of the Slaves with which the Stanley Expedition was manned had been handed to their owners and returned into Slavery at Zanzibar. My advice to you is that you should travel that you might be better prepared to know what questions to ask, or that you should take the trouble to find out the truth of the rumours which seem to send one of your impulsive temperament to ask absurd questions, and which seem to thinly veil your antagonism to every legitimate enterprise abroad. There are three utterly unwarranted assertions in your question relating to the Stanley Expedition, namely, 'which were originally hired

from Arab owners,' 'which had been handed to their owners,' and 'which had been returned to Slavery at Zanzibar,' and in your question relating to shipments of labourers from Zanzibar you cause men to infer that KING LEOPOLD's enterprise stimulates the Slave-trade. One of your champions has asked me indignantly whether I would take your knife handles away. Well, if there were no markets for Slaves there would be no Slave-trade—at least so you have told us; and I say that if there was no market for ivory there would be no ivory raiders, and he who buys ivory now-a-days buys an article which has been obtained by murder, theft, and rapine.

"I am, Sir, yours obediently,

"To ALFRED E. PEASE, Esq."

"HENRY M. STANLEY.

NOTE—MR. PEASE informs us that he was at Cambridge University in 1878, and has no idea what Mr. STANLEY alludes to. Neither he nor the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY had anything whatever to do with the debate respecting the Imperial British East African Company, which appears to have been mainly on the question as to whether a vote for mail service to Zanzibar ought not to be placed to the debit of the Post Office instead of Slave-trade estimates. (See last number of *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, page 45.)—[ED. REPORTER].

MR. PEASE AND MR. STANLEY.

"SIR,—Though I have not as yet received the letter, copies of which appear in to-day's papers, in which you express regret for the appearance of my name in reports of your Guildhall speech, I take the earliest opportunity of saying that I gladly accept your explanation and withdrawal. With your opinion of the Society of Friends, they and I have no need to concern ourselves, nor shall I allude to the new subjects you introduce into your letter as to my questions relating to the 'Stanley Expedition' and the 'Congo Contracts,' further than to remark that the questions were, in my opinion, perfectly fair ones, justified by the answers I received and the authority upon which they were based.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"H. M. STANLEY, Esq., May 16."

ALFRED E. PEASE.

RESOLUTION OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

COPY of Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Committee of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, held June 6th, 1890, EDMUND STURGE, Esq., in the chair.

Present: J. G. ALEXANDER, HENRY GURNEY, A. E. PEASE, M.P., and Secretary, besides the names at foot of this Resolution.

Resolved :—

"That this Committee records its regret at the unjustifiable attack made by Mr. H. M. STANLEY, at the Guildhall, on May 13th, upon Mr. A. E. PEASE, M.P., and the Society of Friends, and that whilst anxious to relieve Mr. PEASE from any responsibility for the questions which he put in the House of Commons at its request, respecting Slavery in Zanzibar and on the Congo, this Committee considers that Mr. STANLEY's statement as to the Anti-Slavery zeal of the 'Quakers of England' is so contrary to the real facts that it requires no refutation by the Anti-Slavery Society."

This Resolution was proposed by R. N. CUST, Esq., D.C.L., seconded by Rev. HORACE WALLER, F.R.G.S., and signed by the following committee men present, not being Members of the Society of Friends:—JOSEPH ALLEN, *Treasurer*; W. WILBERFORCE BAYNES; EDWARD HARRISON; JAMES LONG; ARNOLD PYE-SMITH; W. H. WYLDE, C.M.G. and the Rev. J. C. YARBOROUGH.

White Ivory and Black.

BY THE REV. HORACE WALLER.

(*The headings are our own.*)

SIR,—Quite apart from the mere personal aspect of the correspondence between Mr. PEASE and Mr. STANLEY, and very closely connected with the aspirations which both entertain for East Africa, there is a matter at stake which sooner or later, either in the Press or Parliament, will assuredly gain its proper hearing.

Mr. STANLEY forcibly points out to the world what a factor the use of white ivory is for intensifying the misery of Africa, and no one who has read LIVINGSTONE's travels: or his own will think that he has overstated the case. But how far the evil comes within the bounds of practical treatment, or whether any amount of exposure will lead to the substitution of vulcanite or other compounds in the place of these blood-steeped tusks, is very difficult to say. He, however, virtually puts billiards in the front of "bullets and Bible," and all should listen.

Given an increase in billiard-playing as a pastime, there will be a rise in the price of "scrivelloes"—the smaller tusks, from which billiard balls are cut—and the elephant herds will eventually become aware of it by the administration of bullets. This is simply in accordance with the laws of supply and demand. Mr. STANLEY then will probably allow one to work this out in black ivory as a question which confronts us at Zanzibar.

In these days one has to rely very much upon the intelligence which your correspondent (a very well-informed and correct one) telegraphs from Zanzibar. For a long time he has represented the better feeling there in expostulating against the shipments of "Slaves" for Belgium's requirements on the Congo. I will only quote him from *The Times* of April 30 :—

"A German steamer sailed to-day for the Congo with 400 mixed Slaves and free-men, recruited here for the Congo railway. . . . I cannot repeat too often that the enforced Congo emigration involves grievous injury to the real interests of Zanzibar, and, as the Arabs all acknowledge, increases the demand for Slaves."

WHERE DO THE SLAVES COME FROM?

Now the majority of these Slaves came originally in Slave gangs from the country between Lake Nyassa and the East Coast. Dubbed "Zanzibari" or "labourer," they undergo a certain training before shipment to the Congo, which eventually, for the most part, takes place with their consent; but there are significant exceptions, which I will mention presently. When the day of departure arrives six months' pay ahead is handed to the Slaves' owner, who for his part receives a promise that they shall come back to him. The pay thus in hand is more than the original cost of the Slaves, and he can and does buy more at once. It is this "game" which tells on the black ivory market. As with the white-ivory yielding elephants in their tribes, so with the black ivory tribes who exist by the same rivers and lakes which they haunt, and they have this in common when demand comes from without—the bullet decimates alternately in hunt and raid.

News received within this week from Lake Nyassa goes to show that the whole Slave-trading population in those regions is in a ferment. What with the briskness of the Slave-trade, the efforts of the local Portuguese to encourage the agents, and the determination of the Germans to thwart and stop them, we have a very ugly state of things for future question and answer in the House of Commons.

DR. LIVINGSTONE ON FREE *versus* SLAVE LABOUR.

Mr. STANLEY must forgive me for reminding him that after relieving Dr. LIVINGSTONE, he felt it to be his duty, on reaching Europe, to condemn the employment of Slaves instead of free men, and this he did with might and main.

No one knows better than myself the horror LIVINGSTONE had of using Slaves, and this grew with the experiences he gained, as he penetrated deeper and deeper into the lands which are harried to procure them. His last moments were embittered because Slaves had unwittingly been used to handle stores which were transmitted from the coast and never reached him. On page 466 of "How I found LIVINGSTONE," Mr. STANLEY says, "It is no new fact that the Doctor has discovered when he states that a negro freeman is a hundred times more capable and trustworthy than a Slave." It is then not without pain and chagrin that those who think with LIVINGSTONE on this question find Mr. STANLEY so far change his mind as to take the contrary part against them.

No one is more likely to know the results of developing the resources of the Congo State. He tells us that it works out at a cent. per cent. profit on the outlay. It is news; and we will wait for details, more particularly as "the syndicate of Belgian banks, which had undertaken the issue of 26,000,000 f. of Congo State obligations has been dissolved. The bankers have not been able to place more than one-tenth of the whole amount."

But let the fact stand as a rebuke to the obtuseness of the moneyed world; cannot Belgium, one asks, forego some of this possibly unique Central African profit to give entirely free labour a chance? Has she not all West Africa to draw upon for men? At present the work done by our countrymen on the Shiré and Nyassa, for instance, to say nothing of the gold and diamond fields, is with free labour—no hiring from Arabs or anything of the sort.

Again, the East Africa Chartered Company is doing everything in its power to pit freedom against Slavery. Sir FOWELL BUXTON's connection with its efforts is alone a guarantee in this direction. But the annoying thing to the looker-on is to notice the two systems in full swing before the native mind, and Europeans and fast friends identified with both alike!

SLAVE LABOUR ON THE CONGO.

And now to turn to a rather more serious phase of this question than the majority of your readers will be acquainted with. Without going into names or dates let me show how we as a nation are handling very combustible materials. Last year one of these heavy shipments of Slaves to the Congo took place. The transport was a German vessel, and, shortly after leaving Zanzibar, she was overhauled by a British cruiser employed in stopping the Slave-trade. The Slaves were questioned, and although the large majority said that they were taken away of their own free will, some stated otherwise. Unfortunately—or shall we say fortunately?—these latter were taken out of the transport and put under the British flag. The captain of the cruiser thereby put himself out of court. Had he taken the transport instead, as she was, she would have been as much a lawful prize as any of the Slave-dhows which our cruisers are taking and destroying almost daily in the same waters.

IS THIS THE SLAVE-TRADE OR IS IT NOT?

But it is patent to all that had the captain not committed this blunder Mr. PEASE would have been relieved from the necessity of bringing this winked-at Slavery before the British Parliament, for it would have quickly established its own importance. One entirely acquits Germany at the same time of encouraging this traffic as a nation. The story of the *Charles et George* is not very ancient, and history is given to repeating itself—that it has been perilously near doing so is too apparent.

A greater than KING LEOPOLD—since Mr. STANLEY mentions him—went carefully into this matter, and when he saw that France was wrong in encouraging the shipment of these so-called “labourers,” to his credit be it said, NAPOLEON III. stopped it. Is it too much to ask that the KING OF THE BELGIANS will, in the absence of personal knowledge of East and West Africa, consult those who are acquainted with it, and ask them, Is this the “Slave-trade” or is it not? Such are now within a hundred yards of his palace. If their reply is in the affirmative one feels sure that this disagreeable feeling, which is prompted by no factious spirit, but in the common hope which stirs the heart of the Western World, will pass away in the mutual congratulations that will gather around the destruction of a very dangerous evil.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

HORACE WALLER.

Twywell, Thrapston.

The East African Slave-Trade.

SIR,—It is announced in the Belgian newspapers that Commandant HANEUSE has again arrived at Zanzibar to recruit labourers for the Congo Free State. In the present anxiety about East African affairs this needs more than passing notice.

On the very highest possible authority one has it that this recruiting is “the Slave-trade.” As much money down in hard cash as will pay for a new Slave is handed to the owner by the recruiting commander, when the Slave is permitted to leave for the Congo. There is also the prospect of the recruit’s return in two years or so, laden with wage-earned dollars, and upon these the Slave’s owner can make his own levy. Thus, as a job-master, his bargain is not a bad one. In fact, so good is it that he is anxious to repeat it when the transport comes back from the Congo for more Slaves.

The result is as follows—he takes the instalment in hand, buys a fresh Slave, and so keeps the Slave-catchers around Lake Nyassa—where we particularly need peace and quiet—in a perfect ferment.

There is good reason to believe that the exalted head of the Congo State has never had the tendency of these free labour transactions pointed out to him, or on proper investigation he would at once put a stop to them.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

HORACE WALLER.

Twywell, Thrapston.

Mr. H. M. Stanley.

("THE NEW REVIEW," MAY, 1890).

"THERE is no need to dwell upon the unpleasant features of STANLEY's reception on his return.* He is a man who, with all his social qualities, lives very much within himself. The truth is that, for a man of his iron nerves and freedom of speech about others, STANLEY is almost phenomenally sensitive; he himself told a friend that he believed he was the thinnest-skinned man in creation. Even friendly banter he is apt to take seriously. When his motives or his conduct in Africa are impugned it cuts him to the quick; if he has a suspicion that anything he may have done will wear a doubtful complexion to the outside world he is apt, in anticipation of attack, to hit out all round in self-defence. Hence what seems to those who do not know him the unprovoked harshness of some of his judgments. * * *

"STANLEY is a man of action above all; there lies his strength, and there also do we find the source of his weakness—his tendency towards intolerance for the conduct of men of different make from himself. He, being a man of prompt decision, cannot see why other men should have any difficulty at a critical moment in making up their minds how to act. It may be deficiency in imagination, or it may be defective sympathy; whatever it is, we suppose it is an inevitable concomitant of the resistless energy and singleness of aim which are his supreme characteristics when he has undertaken to accomplish any object. When what he considers to be his duty lies before him, no consideration for friend or foe will induce him to swerve from the straight path. Were it otherwise, were he a man of more toleration for the weaknesses and scruples of others, it is doubtful if ever he would have accomplished what he has done. It was no wonder that the men at Yambuya Camp believed him dead and parted his raiment; for all but a few of the staunchest believers in STANLEY's immortality 'till his work be done' gave him up for lost more than a year ago. As to EMIN, his real estimate of the man may be seen in his words to the KHEDIVE; it is generous, if discriminating.

"But it is over. We have brought out the man whom all the world (including, be it remembered, EMIN himself) believed to be in imminent danger of being consumed by the hordes of the MAHDI; we have had an example of patient endurance and unflinching energy in the accomplishment of a noble purpose, hardly equalled even in the melancholy annals of African exploration. That the result has been disappointing, STANLEY can in no sense be held to blame. We have had great geographical problems solved, a new region brought within the pale of human knowledge, fresh light let into the recesses of the Dark Continent, and all due to the supreme capacity of one man of action. STANLEY has left no African enterprises in the future equal in magnitude to those which he himself has accomplished; none outside the Arctic circles that could be compared with the descent of the Congo. The next great geographical sensation in store for humanity is the return of the man who shall have reached the North Pole.

"Not even his enemies can deny that STANLEY is one of the great forces of our time. Those who take broad and far-sighted views of human transactions, those who can brush aside the inevitable, if annoying, sparks, and see only the welding into shape of the crude bar on the anvil, will recognise that the many-sided work which STANLEY has initiated in Africa must have for its outcome the welfare of the race as a whole. Africa's time has come; all the other continents have, more or less, been brought within the sphere of European influence. Men like STANLEY are wanted to do promptly and thoroughly the pioneer work. His force is not abated, and where in the future could he find better scope for it than on the continent where he has done so much good work? Let us hope that his services may be secured in the interests of his native land."

* From the Livingstone Search Expedition.

Mr. Stanley on British Policy in Africa.

SPEAKING at a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, on the 21st May, urging upon his hearers the necessity of a forward policy in Africa, and expressing the fear that England was too ready to give up the territory to German competitors,

Mr. STANLEY said :—

We must find room for our surplus population (hear, hear). If all the members of the House of Commons, before they were elected, had been sent, for three years, to study the extent and the might of the British Empire, there would have been a very different feeling to-day on this question (cheers). They would have liked to add Kilimanjaro to the British possessions, but the German Emperor said he should like to study the flora and fauna (laughter). In the habitable regions of the mountains of the moon, he was afraid the same thing would happen. Supposing that Dr. PETERS had been sent to discover EMIN PASHA, and had come back with his pockets full of treaties, good, bad, and indifferent, how the state of things would have been altered ! (loud cheers). A number of his friends had clubbed together to try and do something in the region that might safely be called English. They had raised a capital of £500,000 ; but what was the consequence ? Instead of being permitted to make with promptitude a straight road to the fertile regions of the interior, they were compelled to squander it in fighting Governments (hear, hear). It was very sad (hear, hear). He should not mind laying his last guinea, supposing, for instance, there were only rivalry between British and German Companies, on the success of the British. But when there was a Government backing the other Company, it was not a fair fight (loud cheers). The Germans had recently captured 10,000 bullocks from the natives in British territory, and there was no one to say, Boh ! (loud cheers). He could speak very forcibly, but he would restrain himself. We were actually talking now of giving them something more. All he would ask the gentlemen present was to remember the hints he had given to them, and to wait and see what the Government had surrendered, in order that he should be the first to advise the British East African Company to retire altogether and give it up as a bad job, because if the fairest portion of Africa was to be given up, of course the sterile lands near the coast were worthless. He thought he had said quite enough. A word to the wise was sufficient ! (loud cheers).

Mr. STANLEY'S views on African policy, as reported above, were criticised on the following day by LORD SALISBURY, in his capacity of Foreign Secretary, in a speech delivered to the MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY, of which Company he is an honorary member.

LORD SALISBURY said :—

Perhaps in answering for the toast of her Majesty's Government, I may be allowed to think for a moment of the office with which I am more immediately connected, the Foreign Office—an office which by a strange sport of fate, at present, I believe, is more engaged with the continent of Africa than with any other part of the civilised world. I am tempted to say a word or two upon that subject. I always desire to accommodate myself to the fashion of the part of the world I find myself in, and I observe, from the utterances of distinguished men, who have been entertained in this

City, that the proper thing is to talk of Africa after dinner (laughter). But I have also another reason for making observations on this subject, because the Government, which is the Foreign Office, has been the subject of some unkind insinuations and reflections in the course of the free and liberal observations which have been uttered upon African policy on recent occasions. Mr. STANLEY, who in himself is said to identify Africa to the public view, has warned you that the British Government is doing terrible things. It has surrendered vast forests, and tremendous mountains, and great kingdoms which he has offered the British public to accept (laughter). And he gives you mysterious hints that you may interfere in time, or at all events, if you do not interfere, you may be satisfied to submit to his threat that the Company with which he is connected will abandon Africa to its fate (laughter). Well, I am very far from desiring to criticise or traverse anything that may be said by so illustrious a traveller, who has seen a far larger portion of the globe than I have; but I only wish to enter one slight protestation. I have no objection to Mr. STANLEY's criticisms so long as it is understood that they are criticisms of Mr. STANLEY alone; but his position might induce you to think he was behind the scenes, and that he knows what was going on, and was revealing some secret of the Government to the British public in order to set your hair on end (laughter). Against any such conclusion I desire earnestly to warn you. We have not surrendered anything (hear, hear), for the best reason in the world, that we have not come to any agreement at all. Such communications as we have had with other Governments have really been an exchange of views. No kind of conclusion has been arrived at, and therefore, when you are told that anything has been surrendered or given up, I exhort you to suspend your judgment until some facts more cogent than any such spontaneous revelations may appear in order to confirm the suggestion (cheers). We have not come to any conclusions or agreements, I am not sure that we shall come to any agreement (hear, hear), it is impossible to know whether we shall or not. It may have come to your notice in the course of business that the solution of a question which is very pleasant to one side sometimes does not seem quite acceptable to the other (laughter), and you cannot come to an agreement unless both sides think that the arrangement is acceptable (hear, hear). With reference to the African Company, I desire to calm the fears which are expressed by the expression of my own opinion, that under all the circumstances of the case it would be very undesirable to come to any agreement which we had not ascertained was acceptable to those whose interests are principally concerned, the trading companies, the missions, and others who have done such great work in this matter. And therefore I hope that the fears under which for twenty-four hours the City has laboured, in consequence of these dark insinuations, will be dissipated at last (hear, hear). But I also wish to enter a word of warning on the other side. Whether we shall enter into an agreement or not I do not know; perhaps we shall not do so; but whether we enter into close relationship of possession and responsibility with all this magnificent territory which Mr. STANLEY has revealed to the world is a point on which the public opinion of England and Parliament are to be consulted, because I apprehend that Governments must be looked upon as trustees of those in whose names they act. Before you buy a new estate for a *cestui que trust*, who is under your care, you would like that he should know something of the annual revenues that that estate might bring in, and of the rates and taxes and tithes, and liability to law suits, and other inconveniences by which estates are sometimes attended. Therefore, whatever policy is proposed to us in this matter we must look at as bargains are looked at in this great City, from the point of view of prudence as

well as of boldness. The extension of the British Empire, so long as it is a matter of maritime territory, is a matter that need alarm no Briton. We have a fleet that rules at sea, and we can always give account of any enemy who interferes with our maritime position ; but when invited to take possession of countries only accessible to the sea after three months trouble, of course an entirely different set of considerations come into view (laughter). I do not wish to rub up old sores, but, of course, it is within the memory of those present that we did wish to relieve a town called Khartoum, not nearly so far from the sea as many places we have heard of lately, and the results were not precisely of the most brilliant character (laughter). I wish to say no more, but only that while I think to sign away any of the rights which our fellow subjects have acquired, or think they have acquired, would be an unjust thing ; on the other hand, to commit this country to the defence of territory which it cannot get at is a thing which only should be done after grave reflection, and with the full assent of Parliament and the country (hear hear).

THE STARVING SOUDANESE AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

Extracts from letter received from Mr. A. B. WYLDE, of Suakin.

"You have no idea the awful state of misery the country is in. The population is absolutely starving, and the people are like living skeletons. Only the very wealthy formerly have still something left. Of course the greatest misery is among the widows and children of the men we have killed, and we must have disposed of at least 20,000, and those had considerably over 100,000 dependent on them, so you can guess the local misery. It does seem hard, after killing the bread-winners, to leave the innocent women and children to utter destitution and a painful death. I have two children here sent me from Tokar. Their mother, sisters, brothers, and all friends died of starvation. I am going to get them weighed when I get to Suakin. Their united ages may be fifteen, and I am willing to back they don't weigh 45 lbs. between them. Cannibalism has taken place, everything moving has been eaten. Dogs, cats, rats, donkeys, snakes, lizards, old bones, leather, are eagerly devoured, and the stronger take by force from the weaker. I have seen a big boy seize a small one, and try to strangle him for the food that was in his mouth, and many other awful sights. A subscription has been started which enables the Relief Committee to feed about 3,000 of the worst cases, and to start a mat hospital for the sick. This is at Suakin. At Tokar the starvation is worse ; between 50 and 100, sometimes over, die daily. Kassala is still worse, whole families being found dead in their houses. At Gallabat and Gedarit the population nearly ceases to exist ; at Berber, Schendy, and Metemmeh the same. At Halaib, Mahamed Ghouli, and Aglig the distress is also intense. I do hope something will be done. Our Suakin committee consists of the Governor-General, the Consul, the senior Naval officer, the senior Army doctor, an Anglo-Egyptian colonel, the Greek Vice-Consul, and two native merchants. Thank God you at home don't know half the misery we see !"

Mr. Stanley Reviews his Past Career.

At the banquet given in London by American citizens to Mr. H. M. STANLEY, the great explorer gave a sketch of his former career, which included his life as a journalist and war correspondent. Abyssinia, Ashantee, and Spain during the Carlist rebellion, formed the school in which Mr. STANLEY graduated. Then came the remarkable journey in which he found LIVINGSTONE, succeeded by his now historic expedition which opened up the Congo River to the world. Mr. STANLEY, speaking of his former journeys in Africa, admits that his views have considerably changed since then, especially with regard to the employment of physical force, as will be shown in the following extract from his interesting speech.

It was necessary for me to wander further afield to view cities of men, great works, great assemblies, many countries—Greece, Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Russia, Persia, and India, and, after being well seasoned with experience, to enter Africa as leader of men of my own. According to the rules of things, I was not ripe, judging from what I know now to what I knew then. I was still very young and rash, headstrong, and relying too much on force. Fortunately fate was propitious, and I was not prematurely cut off. Time to think was accorded to me by the circumstances of the march of 1,800 miles into Africa, and it was reflection I needed. Yet I was a dull pupil, for my blood was like molten lava. I must admit that while with LIVINGSTONE I saw no good in the lands I travelled through. The negro was precisely what he ought to be—a born Pagan, a most unloving and unloveable savage. Nevertheless, much of what LIVINGSTONE expounded was unanswerable, but I attempted to parry what he said by lavish abuse of the natives and their country. In 1873 I was back again in Africa—on the opposite side of Africa; and, after the brief Ashantee campaign, returned with a few more experiences. The beginning of my real African education was in 1875 while sailing along the shores of the greatest lake in Africa. It came like a revelation to me. (Cheers.) Now, I have shown you what a dull, slow student I was, and you can well understand how lightly the abuse and chaff of my brother journalists sits on my mind. It is not one lecture, or even a hundred, that will suffice to infuse a knowledge of the value of Africa into the English mind. It took ten years for people to believe thoroughly that I did find LIVINGSTONE. Why, only a few days ago one of the most prominent men in England said:—"I do not know what Mr. STANLEY has been lately doing in Africa, but when I see you I shall gladly listen to you." Yet great cities have been pleased to endow me with honorary freedoms, and honours without end. The Congo State had been founded and recognised before an English Bishop knew where the Congo River was. We met some French padres near the Indian Ocean, who asked a German officer who EMIN PASHA was. Therefore, though you and I may know what is going on in Africa, we must not suppose the general public is any wiser to-day than they were in the time of MUNGO PARK. British journalists may profess to know a good deal, but I have read much lately to make me painfully conscious that there is a vast deal of ignorance yet. Had anybody but LORD SALISBURY made that speech lately at the Merchant Taylors', I should have answered it in a very different strain; but a Minister who governs 8,000,000 square miles may well be forgiven if he makes a few mistakes in African geography, and he has hitherto managed matters so wonderfully well that we may wish him many years yet as a pilot to this immense and universally expanded Empire. (Cheers.)

A Steamer for the Victoria Nyanza.

IN the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, on Thursday, the 5th June, the DUKE OF FIFE presided over a meeting in support of the Stanley Fund, which was inaugurated by the promoters of the Stanley and African Exhibition, and which, at the suggestion of Mr. STANLEY, is to be devoted to placing a steamer on the now unoccupied waters of the Victoria Nyanza. The hall was crowded, and among those present on the platform were the LORD MAYOR, Mr. H. M. STANLEY, Sir HENRY PEEK, Sir EDWARD LEE (hon. secretary to the fund), General C. COLLINGWOOD, Colonel GRANT, Dr. R. N. CUST, Mr. JEPHSON, the Rev. E. WIGRAM (secretary to the Church Missionary Society), Mr. ALLEN (Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society), and Mr. EUGENE STOCK.

The Chairman, who was received with cheers, said it gave him much pleasure to preside on that occasion, because he had taken the deepest interest in the discoveries of those great men who had carried civilisation and Christianity into the darkest portions of the earth. (Cheers.) The task he had to perform was not a difficult one, although a few years ago it might have been. The fact was, the great work of Mr. STANLEY—(cheers)—had thoroughly roused the people of this country, and the vigorous words which he had so courageously spoken—(renewed cheers)—had convinced the dullest amongst us that now was the time to take advantage of his own and his predecessors' great work in Africa during the last fifty years. (Hear, hear). Those who knew Africa would agree that what had delayed that great continent in the world's race more than anything else was the lack of communication. (Hear, hear). The most potent instrument of locomotion in a country with vast lakes and great rivers must be the steamer, and there was surely no better gift which civilised Europe could bestow upon benighted Africa. He remembered reading, when he was a boy, of the launching of LIVINGSTONE'S *Pioneer* upon the waters of the Zambesi, and they might truly say that that vessel had proved the pioneer of all that civilisation and Christianity had done for those regions during the last thirty years. The object of their present meeting was to appeal to the public to do the same thing for the great Victoria Nyanza—a lake that was so closely associated with the names of SPEKE and GRANT. Although it was the largest lake in Africa, it was the only one that was without a steamer upon its waters. Upon the three other lakes, and on many of the rivers, there were steamers running, but this great lake, which was destined one day to be the chief trade centre between the equatorial provinces and the sea, was destitute of all steam transport. Mr. STANLEY had pointed out the extreme importance of the Victoria's position, and the vital necessity of utilising it if we wished to suppress Slavery, to civilise the natives, and to create and develop a new trade; and surely this great country was not going to allow itself to be outstripped in this mission by the new-born zeal of others. (Cheers). The sum that was required for their present object was a trifle for a great and generous nation. A good beginning had been already made, and it only remained now for the public to give their contributions. He felt that their appeal would not be in vain; but that as the result of that meeting they would soon have a well-equipped modern steamer, which should carry to the islands and the shores of the lake the blessings of Christianity, civilisation, and commerce. (Cheers). Many suggestions would no doubt be made as to the name of the vessel, but he thought the happiest one would be that which was to be linked with the future of Mr. STANLEY, and he would, therefore, propose that the steamer should be called the *Dorothy*. (Cheers).

The LORD MAYOR moved the first resolution as follows :—"That it will greatly aid the development and civilisation of Central Africa if Mr. H. M. STANLEY's suggestion of placing a steamboat on the Victoria Nyanza be carried out, and that strenuous efforts should be made to augment the Stanley Fund inaugurated by the Stanley and African Exhibition to ensure the attainment of this humanitarian object ; and that his Grace the DUKE OF FIFE, the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR, and Mr. H. M. STANLEY, be asked to be the trustees of the fund, in addition to Mr. CUTHBERT E. PEEK, and Mr. CHARLES H. READ." He could not, he said, do better, in alluding to the proposed scheme, than refer them to the brief but clear outline of it which Mr. STANLEY had given in a letter to the executive committee. The boat, Mr. STANLEY told them, should be made of galvanised steel, and to be serviceable should be about 60 ft. by 12 ft. When placed upon the lake it should be, in his opinion, handed over either to the Church Missionary Society or the Imperial British East African Company. This outline would, of course, have to be enlarged, but he (the LORD MAYOR) thought it gave them, at least, a clear description of the object they had in view. (Cheers).

Mr. H. M. STANLEY, who met with a very cordial reception, seconded the resolution, and referred to the discovery of the Victoria Nyanza by SPEKE, some thirty-one years ago. Fifteen years ago he himself had followed in SPEKE's footsteps, and the magnificence of the waters had wrought a deep impression on his mind. Proceeding to relate his experiences when he first explored the lake, he said that after a voyage of fifty-seven days they had completely circumnavigated it, and found that its shores were somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,200 miles. As the result of a letter which he sent to England in those days, £13,000 was subscribed in one day for the purpose of equipping a mission, which arrived at Uganda in 1876. In his recent expedition he had found that the steamers he had planted on the Congo, and the stations he had established on the banks, had been the means, under Providence, of helping on the missions, and he had thus experienced the truth of the words, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shall find it after many days." (Cheers). Some traces of the white man's stay on the Lake Nyanza would have been a help to his expedition, for they had plenty of people who had enabled them to do remarkably good work, and who ought certainly to have settled the question which occupied the Foreign Offices of Great Britain and Germany at the present time. But when they arrived at the mission station at the south end of Lake Victoria, and he asked the missionary in charge (Mr. MACKAY) what means he had to take the expedition to the east side of the lake, he said, "There is a canoe I am building, and I hope to get it done in about seven months." Two men were working at the machinery, and the hull was still in the forest uncut. He (Mr. STANLEY) declared that he would be able to go back to England, raise enough money, and have a vessel launched on the Victoria Nyanza before the canoe was completed. The missionary, however, insisted that the canoe would be finished, and what was the consequence? Mr. MACKAY was now dead, and the canoe would never be completed. He mentioned these facts to show the vital importance of having a steamer on the lake, which contained 26,900 square miles of sweet water, and possessed fertile and populous shores, inhabited by 12,000,000 of people. (Cheers). He had hinted that it was a subject of dispute as to who should have the shores of the lake between two Great Powers, who they all hoped would continue and remain friendly—(cheers)—and who they hoped would lend their best efforts, once and for all, to open that country to future generations. Many efforts had been made, but all failed. On his various expeditions they had tried cattle, elephants, camels, mules, Arab horses, donkeys, and English dogs, but they had all sickened and

died. But in these days they had something which was unknown in the olden times—they had steam; and if they put a steamer there to-day, they might look forward to reaping a plentiful harvest. Call it by what name they liked, it would always remain a blessing. The Chairman had referred to some vigorous language he (Mr. STANLEY) had used. He was most happy to think that, in spite of the vigour of the language—which was, after all, very, very mild—the worst wish the Germans had expressed towards him was that he might soon get married—(laughter and cheers)—and the reason of it, as they frankly said, was that it would close his lips. (Laughter). But before his lips were for ever closed he would once more second that resolution. (Renewed laughter and cheers).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. E. WIGRAM, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, moved the next resolution, as follows:—"That fully sympathising with the objects of this meeting, it is hereby resolved that an appeal be forthwith made to the public for subscriptions to complete this noble work, and that those present pledge themselves to do what lies in their power to carry the appeal to a successful issue."

Mr. CHAS. H. ALLEN (Secretary of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY), in seconding the resolution, said that in 1885, he had the pleasure of standing on that platform in company with Mr. H. M. STANLEY, who then delivered a magnificent oration against the Slave-trade on behalf of and by invitation of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY. The question of putting steamers upon the great lakes of Central Africa was one that had always received the cordial support of that SOCIETY, as it contended that steam traffic on these inland waters was one of the most powerful civilising agencies that could be introduced. He had much pleasure in seconding the resolution. This was also agreed to, and the proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the LORD MAYOR for granting the use of the Egyptian Hall, and to the DUKE OF FIFE for presiding.

ENGLAND AND GERMANY IN AFRICA.

(From the Berlin *Times* Correspondent.)

"COMMENTING on the leading article in *The Times* of Thursday last, on England and Germany in Africa, the *National Zeitung* (which derives most of its inspiration on this subject from HERR VOHSEN, director of the German East Africa Company) is unable to see what special claims England can urge to the Nyassa region, considering, among other things, 'that the boasted Stevenson road does not exist,' and never did, save in the columns of English journals. The short distance (between the two lakes, Nyassa and Tanganyika) from which the trees were felled, has long since been closed again by vegetation. England has thus no prescriptive right whatever to the country between Lake Nyassa, Lake Bangweolo, and Lake Tanganyika, while Germany, on the other hand, is clearly entitled by the Congo Act to claim all the hinterland behind her coast line up to the frontier of the Congo State."

GHASTLY DOINGS IN NYASSALAND.

DR. KERR CROSS, addressing a meeting on Wednesday in Pollockshields Free Church, Glasgow, on the subject of his work and experiences as a missionary of the Free Church in the region of Lake Nyassa, Africa, said there was one large tribe—the Awamba—inhabiting a tract of country north-east of Bangwedo, who, instigated by the Arabs, ravished the land north, south, east, and west. The grown men were put aside to be destroyed after the women and boys and girls and cattle had been secured. He could scarcely summon up courage to describe the fate of the men, but the awful fact was that, having been put in a row, their captors chopped their heads off one after the other for the very love of seeing the bodies reel about. The hapless women, youths, girls, and children were secured by forked branches attached to their necks, and thus they were driven from day to day till they were sold to the Arabs.

Tropical East Africa.

A TEN YEARS' REVIEW.

BY DR. R. W. FELKIN, F.R.G.S.,

Member of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

By kind permission of the Editor of the *Daily Graphic* we are able to lay before our readers two valuable articles from the pen of Dr. FELKIN, with an explanatory sketch map gratuitously presented by that journal. As Dr. FELKIN has twice travelled through the equatorial province over which EMIN PASHA has held sway for many years, and is personally acquainted with that extraordinary man, no one can speak with more authority than he upon the present state of tropical Africa.

ARTICLE I.

It is sometimes useful to review the past, and the history of tropical East Africa during the past ten years has been an eventful one—one worthy of review, for the changes which have taken place have been very great, and England's position with regard to the country has undergone remarkable alterations. Public interest in Africa has been aroused by recent events, and it is impossible to doubt that had the public known as much about that continent in 1880 as they do now, many of the changes which have come about would not have occurred, and most probably England's interests with regard to vast territories would have been far greater than they are now.

I propose to call attention to nine districts into which one may divide tropical East Africa, and, in order to avoid lengthy descriptions, I append a sketch map, which will at once show readers the situation.



SKETCH MAP OF AFRICA, ILLUSTRATING
DR. FELKIN'S ARTICLE.

1. District known as the Arab part of the Egyptian Sudan.
2. The Negro Egyptian Sudan.
3. Abyssinia.
4. Somaliland, the Horn of Africa.
5. British East Africa.
6. Uganda and Unyoro.
7. German East Africa.
8. Portuguese East Africa.
9. The Nyassa District.

What, then, was the condition of these vast areas at the beginning of 1880? With regard to districts 1 and 2, GORDON had just retired from the Governor-Generalship of the Egyptian Soudan, and it is not too much to say that the whole of these districts had been brought, by his unique personality and untiring energy, into a condition of comparative prosperity, and it only needed his work to be carried on upon the lines he had laid down, to have developed the Soudan to an almost unlimited extent.

A railway was even then projected from Suakim to Khartoum, and a bright prospect seemed to be open for commercial prosperity and for the development of civilisation. The negro portion of the Soudan was under three European Governors—EMIN PASHA being Governor of the Equatorial Province, GESSI PASHA of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province (replaced in a few months by LUPTON BEY), and SLATIN BEY being Governor of Darfur. GESSI and EMIN had both been enabled to clear their respective districts of the Slave-dealers, and both had inaugurated an era of commercial progress and success.

No one could have imagined at the beginning of 1880 what disastrous events would happen, as almost every one competent to judge was predicting a successful era for the great Egyptian Soudan.

The condition of affairs in district No. 3 was also fairly satisfactory. The disputes between the KING OF ABYSSINIA and the Egyptians seemed on the way to be permanently settled, and there appeared to be every prospect of the country being opened to European trade in the near future.

With regard to district No. 4, apart from the explorations of the brothers JAMES, it is in very much the same condition now as it was in 1880, and I only call attention to it because future action may be necessary in order to bring it under British influence.

In 1880 districts 5 and 7 were one and the same. Most of this region was nominally under the rule of the SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR. Practically, however, owing to the diplomacy of Sir JOHN KIRK, it was a sphere of British influence, in which British trade was gaining a firm foothold and rapidly increasing in amount, and where British Missionaries were endeavouring to introduce the blessings of civilisation, and those higher blessings, for the sake of which they had prepared to sacrifice all they most hold dear.

In district 6 we find two native kingdoms—Uganda and Unyoro. They were independent, and Uganda at any rate was ruled over by a man who, although undoubtedly difficult to deal with, had great innate powers; the country itself certainly possessed inherent possibilities of becoming the source of light and liberty in Central Africa, and Protestant and Roman Catholic Missionaries were labouring successfully there.

We next turn to No. 8, and find that, in an area along the coast, the Portuguese still occupied various ports, but that their rule was limited in extent, unsatisfactory in character, and costly in the extreme to the Home Government.

Lastly, district No. 9, which embraced Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika, and the road between them constructed by the philanthropist, Mr. STEVENSON, was under British influence, and was the scene of energetic endeavours on the part of the London Missionary Society, the Universities' Mission, and the Scottish Missions, who vied with each other in a friendly rivalry to introduce the benefits of Christianity and civilisation, and to extinguish the Slave-trade. The African Lakes Company, too, was hard at work, training the people to the arts of just trade, and endeavouring to stem the Slave-trade and the drink traffic, by providing a ready means of export for the ivory,

and by prohibiting the importation of spirits throughout the districts under their influence.

Such, then, was the state of matters ten years ago, and it will be seen that practically, with the exception of the Portuguese settlements near the Zambesi, of Abyssinia, and of the unknown horn of Africa, Egyptian and British interests dominated the whole of Eastern Africa from the northern boundry of the Soudan to the Zambesi.

Those who had the best interests of Africa at heart, and who were also patriotic enough to wish for the extension of British commerce, and philanthropists who looked for the time when the Slave-trade should become a thing of the past, and last, but by no means the least, those Missionary Societies who were striving at the cost of precious lives and much treasure to carry the Gospel message to the Africans, could not help looking forward with justifiably sanguine expectations to the future of Eastern Equatorial Africa.

All such, however, were doomed to disappointment. Events have moved rapidly, and during the past decade many a hard blow has been struck at the work which until then, had been moving forward slowly, but, on the whole, satisfactorily. One cannot help thinking of what might have been, and regretting that ignorance on the part of the public, the passions of party politics, the jealousies of European nations, and the bitterness of creed warfare, have combined to wreck fair prospects, to change the map of Africa with regard to spheres of influence, to cast millions of the inhabitants once more into the miserable condition of tribal war and the dominion of the Slave-traders, and to extinguish the torch of civilisation, which was burning brightly and promising a brilliant future.

ARTICLE II.

Let us, then, now look at the results which the past ten years have brought forth, that we may estimate rightly what has been lost, and also appreciate the present position of the country under review, and learn, if possible, whether the loss may be regained.

The crass mismanagement and misrule which followed GORDON's retirement from Khartoum set fire to a rebellion, which ended in the fall of Khartoum in 1885, and the collapse of all government in the Soudan, the Equatorial Province excepted. It can hardly be doubted that this catastrophe might easily have been averted. Had prompt action been taken when the numerous warnings were received both in Egypt and in Great Britain, the revolt would have been checked in the bud, terrible loss of life have been avoided, and the intolerable misery which still obtains prevented. The warnings, however, were disregarded, until at length even the genius of GORDON, unsupported as he was by the moderate aid he requested, was insufficient to stem the tide of fanatical hate which had taken possession of the Arab tribes.

As to the Equatorial Province, we have to notice with deep regret that, notwithstanding EMIN PASHA's heroic struggles to maintain his post, he, too, though only recently, has been compelled to abandon his province to be overrun once more with Slave-raiders, and the civilisation he had done so much to introduce has, one may say, become a thing of the past.

Turning to Abyssinia, we find the king dead and the country in a state of internecine war, and we see that Italy has gained possession of Massowah—in all 3,960 square miles. She has, too, protectorates extending over a further 29,680 square miles, and spheres of influence of no less an area than 63,000 square miles. It is to

be hoped that Italy will have the financial strength to maintain her position, and that she will use her advantages to the advancement of civilisation.

As regards the district marked 6 upon the map, although Unyoro has practically remained *in statu quo*, Uganda has been convulsed by the throes of intrigue and war. MTESA is dead; MWANGA, after reigning a short time, was deposed, and has only recently been re-established upon his throne, was again deposed, and the country is the scene of fierce warfare. These disturbances have, however, served to show the hold which Christianity had taken upon numbers of the people, and surely the heart-rending history of the fierce persecution and noble martyrdom of so many of the native Christians is the strongest possible reply to those who so ignorantly opine that Christian missions are a failure. It must, however, be noted that it was in all probability the fact of Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries both working in the country that caused a considerable amount of the disturbance. One cannot help believing that in uncivilised countries, such as Uganda, missions of various denominations should not encroach one upon the other. Probably ecclesiastics may differ on this point; still, it can hardly be doubted that had the Protestants, who first entered Uganda, been permitted to carry on their work, without the disruption caused by the subsequent introduction of an apparently new religion, much would have been different, and the undoubted advantages which the Protestants possessed in 1880 might have served to prevent the intrigues which led to such loss of life.

Reviewing now the state of matters in the districts numbered 5 and 7, we notice that great changes have also here taken place since 1880. As mentioned above, British influence was supreme here ten years ago; these years, however, have seen the death of two Sultans of Zanzibar, and the Sultan's territory restricted to the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and a nominal area of ten miles inland along the coast. British influence has rapidly diminished, and has been confined to the area marked 5, and Germany, appearing upon the scene, claims a sphere of influence extending throughout the area marked 7. The action of the German Companies which first commenced proceedings on the East Coast of Africa certainly calls for condemnation. Ignorance and faulty methods combined to cause a revolt of the Arabs on the mainland, and inaugurated such a state of discontent that at length the German Government was compelled to take the matter in hand, to undertake a practical conquest of the country, and to make it a Crown province. The results have been the abolition of all trade and considerable fighting, the end of which has not yet come.

Although one cannot help deeply regretting these events, one must take some comfort in the fact that at any rate in area five British interests are secure. A great trading Company—the British East Africa Company—has been formed and granted a Royal charter, and up to the present time has fully justified the confidence reposed in its promoters, for it is progressing favourably in its task of opening up its territory to legitimate trade, and there is every reason to expect for it a successful future, the importance of which solely depends upon the wisdom of its directors. It would be unwise to ignore the fact that a certain amount of friction has certainly existed for the past year or more between British and German interests in East Africa. It is probable that this friction is due more to local causes than to fundamental differences, and there is good reason to suppose that the two Governments in question are working in harmony; but it is of vital importance to Africa and to the cause of civilisation that all points of difference be speedily decided, and that both nations agree to let the past be past, and to work in the future in harmony and good fellowship.

Apart, however, from the differences which have arisen between the Germans and

the British upon the East Coast of Africa, there is one point of vital importance which must not be lost sight of, and that is, the division of the spheres of influence of the two countries in East Central Africa itself. As is well known, an arrangement was come to between the two nations that the German sphere of influence should stretch towards the west to the eastern shore of the Victoria Nyanza, at a point where the first degree of south latitude cuts that shore. In order to prevent grave difficulties in the future, as well as to protect British interests of vital importance, it is absolutely necessary that no concession should be made to Germany of any district either to the west or to the north of this line of demarcation. British explorers opened up that country, British missionaries first entered it, and have laboured in it for years, and Germany has not the slightest shadow of a ground upon which to base any claim to the extension of her sphere of influence in this direction. The districts of Uganda and Unyoro must not be permitted to fall out of the British sphere of influence. Should they do so, the labours of the Imperial British East Africa Company will have been for nought, and it behoves the public to look with jealous eyes upon our Government's action in this direction.

Passing on towards the south, we come to the difficult matter of the Portuguese sphere of influence on the East Coast of Africa. As indicated above, the condition of the Portuguese East African colony has been far from satisfactory. Without extending her own commercial sphere of influence, Portugal has done much to hamper and impede British commerce by acting, it must be confessed, as the dog in the manger. She holds the Zambesi mouths, and, not utilising the river herself, she has, by means of high taxes and numerous prohibitions, retarded British trade as much as possible. The exorbitant claims of Portugal and the recent high-handed action of her officials against the Makalolos need only be mentioned, as they will be fresh in the reader's recollection. It is to be hoped that no delay will be permitted to take place in settling once and for all a *modus vivendi*, and in agreeing definitely as to the demarcation of an area in which alone Portuguese supremacy may be permitted. Delays are dangerous, and, in this matter, unless Britain steadily maintains the ground she has taken up, disappointment may again be experienced, and the justifiable expectations of this country be defeated.

The programme is almost finished, and our last, district 9, alone remains to be dealt with. In this area events have been untoward during the past few years; Slave-dealers' intrigues and what one must fain call Portuguese aggression, have rendered both missionary work and the commercial endeavours of the African Lakes Company difficult in the extreme. But we have the satisfaction of knowing that both missionaries and traders have nobly upheld the traditions of the past, and that a mere handful of men have maintained their ground unflinchingly, notwithstanding all intrigue and even actual war. People are, we suppose, at last beginning to realise that British claims to the Nyassa district are based upon indubitable title deeds. Our countrymen explored these districts, our countrymen opened them up to legitimate trade, and our churches have not been behindhand in supplying both men and means in the cause of philanthropy. Success has followed all these endeavours, and it was this success which aroused the cupidity of a Power which, trading upon its own weakness, and, maybe, stimulated by the ever-varying phases of European politics, has tried to overthrow our claims, and to reap the harvest for which our workers have so assiduously sowed.

This ten years' review has been necessarily given with the utmost brevity, and many tempting topics have in consequence been omitted; but one may summarise the

whole by saying that Great Britain has lost considerably by the events of the past decade. It would be unsatisfactory to conclude without pointing out that were an enlightened policy instituted with regard to the Soudan, peace might probably soon be made there. From all accounts, the Arab tribesmen are wearied with everlasting warfare, famine, and intrigue, and would be only too ready to recommence legitimate trade. This being the case, and with our knowledge of the past, it seems only reasonable to suppose that the Soudan may once more open its portals to trade, and British enterprise is surely not so far crippled that it will fail to make an effort to retrieve the past.

As to the old Equatorial Province of Egypt, an effort should be made to regain it, to free its people from the yoke, and to utilise its commercial possibilities to the full. The Zambesi navigation should be free to all nations ; and, lastly, those isolated bands of men who have, during the past ten years, maintained a struggle of the Cross against the Crescent in Central Africa should be reinforced with promptitude, and with sufficient numbers to make headway against an implacable foe.

The past ten years are full of lessons if we will only learn them. They have been full of faults, the consequences of which we have reaped, and which have caused an untold amount of suffering to the African. It only remains for us to take to heart these lessons, and by judicious and consistent action in the future to re-establish our supremacy, and maintain our influence.

R. W. FELKIN.

Emin Pasha and British Sphere of Influence.

IN view of the present discussion on EMIN'S conduct in joining a German expedition, the following unpublished letter from him to the Secretary of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY will be read with interest :

(Translation from the French.)

WADELAI, PROV. EQUATOR, EGYPT, 22nd July, 1886.

DEAR MR. ALLEN,—In order to cure an evil it is necessary to remove the causes—in order to abolish the Slave-trade it must be attacked at its sources. It seems to me, therefore, somewhat strange that in your meetings they denounce the loss of the Soudan, whilst nobody ventures to announce measures for counteracting such misfortune. In confining yourselves to watching the frontiers you only raise the price of merchandise : in occupying the places whence Slaves are provided you would destroy the possibility of their export. Here, then, is a work worthy of the philanthropic and civilising mission of your country ! The English Government has formally engaged to relieve the garrisons of the Soudan ; on the other hand our countries and the Bahr Gazelle up to this place are, although theoretically Egyptian, practically abandoned, and beyond the sphere of any possible Egyptian action. Why, then, is there no thought of establishing there an English Protectorate ? Egypt will make no remonstrance, whilst she will be content to be relieved of a province separated from her by thousands of miles. You know this as well as I. For more than three years

nobody in Egypt has any information of this country. Do you believe that at the end of that time she will care any more about them? Taken from this point of view what difficulty could present itself? The distance of these countries from the sea, that is to say, from the base of communications, and the financial question, are the difficulties. As for the route, that would not be a difficult matter. As there is no question of the march of an army corps, at least for the present, an expedition might follow the route of Mr. THOMSON, starting from Mombasa or from Melindi.

The troops which are now here, are well able to maintain themselves, provided they are furnished with the necessary arms and ammunition, and clothing for themselves and their families. The only question, therefore, is the despatch of three or four caravans carrying indispensable necessities, and commanded by capable men. It is much to be desired that some officer should receive an official mission to come out here, but certainly there can be no necessity at present for European troops, for provided there are arms, recruits can be found in this country. The financial question is explained by the previous suggestions. Let us enquire, then, what advantages an English occupation would confer upon these countries? By extending your power towards the west you would deal the Slave-trade the most decisive blow that has ever been struck. You would destroy the traffic in human flesh in these countries entirely for ever, and in concert with the French and Congo Governments you would soon deliver Northern Africa from the scourge which ravages it. You would establish your positions in such a manner that, finding yourselves in the rear of the fanatical sectaries of MOHAMMED AMED, you would one day be able to attack them before and behind, and would easily regain the entire Soudan without sacrificing your men by thirst in the deserts. You would open to legitimate commerce an extent of country almost without limit, lands fruitful and rich, with all kinds of natural resources. You would there find a market quite ready to receive the produce of your looms and your manufactures, and a soil fit for agriculture. By introducing legitimate commerce you would teach the people how to obtain material well-being; by establishing stable and just administration you would protect them and render them happy.

My reports to the different Governors of Khartoum have shown by figures that with a little care and good-will these provinces could maintain themselves from their own resources, and the last three years of our seclusion have proved that these calculations—barring unforeseen accidents—were right. These reports can be placed in evidence, and an active administrator would be able to obtain good profits.

In what I have already said I have expressed in few words my ideas; it is for you henceforth to develop them and to procure for them a favourable reception. I have maintained my position up to the present day, and, God willing, I shall be able to maintain it yet for some time to come. As for the rest, I desire earnestly that the work of civilisation to which I have devoted ten years of my life may not be annihilated with my death. I should like above all things, to see these countries in the hands of a humane nation capable of conducting our people towards an assured and peaceable future. Hence the motive of my letter. There is no need for me to tell you that I am ready to give you every information possible, and that I should esteem myself very happy if in any way I can be of any use.

Believe me, Dear Sir, in the assurance of my warmest sentiments,

DR. EMIN BEY.

To Mr. CHAS. H. ALLEN.

The Red Sea Slave-Trade.

BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

WE reprint from *Chambers's Journal*, of April 5th, a very interesting and important article upon the Slave-traffic in the Red Sea, together with an editorial from the *Daily News* commenting thereon. We know that the writer in the article in *Chambers's Journal* thoroughly understands the subject on which he treats, and we believe that Her Majesty's Government are fully aware of the truth of the details of the abominable Red Sea traffic. Naturally, the Government is desirous of awaiting the official report of the Brussels Conference before taking action in regard to increasing the Red Sea preventive squadron. We have reason to believe, from what we lately heard in Brussels from our own Plenipotentiaries, that the question of the Red Sea Slave traffic has been dealt with in such a manner that the abominations now practised will be done away with, or, at any rate, made extremely difficult and dangerous to carry on. Until the plans proposed to be adopted by the Conference are made known, it would be unfair to attempt to force the hands of the Government ; but we may safely express our opinion that unless Turkey is made to carry out existing treaties and laws relative to the Slave-trade, the work will only be half done. It must be remembered that the largest Slave market in the world is at Jeddah, and is under the protection of the Turkish flag.

The article from *Chambers's Journal* is as follows, which we have broken up into headings for the convenience of our readers :—

THE RED SEA SLAVE-TRADE.

It is astonishing, considering the great interest felt in this country on the subject of the Slave-trade, how little is known of the most revolting side of the question, and how little is done to attempt its suppression. The general idea seems to be that the Slave-trade carried on between the East Coast of Africa and the Persian Gulf is the only one worthy of our consideration, and that if a certain number of our men-of-war patrol the coast from Magadoxa to Mozambique during the south-east monsoon, and occasionally make a capture, England has done all that need be done to prevent the traffic.

Now the horrors of this East African trade, with its murderous raids on defenceless tribes, its cruel march through the desert and jungle, and its terrible voyage of six weeks or more in the crowded hold of a Slave-dhow, have often been described, and are sufficient in all conscience to make every man with ordinary feelings of humanity anxious to do all that lies in his power for their mitigation ; but the miseries end with the voyage, and when once a Slave has been bought in the market, his life is seldom an unhappy one. The Persians and Arabs are good masters, and treat their Slaves well and kindly so long as they do their work, providing them with good food and such clothes as they require ; allowing them to marry, and considering them as members of their own families.

HAREM VICTIMS.

But the fate of the unfortunate victims of the Red Sea Slave-trade is a very different one. It is true they are spared the six weeks' voyage, as the run across the Red Sea occupies only from six to thirty-six hours; but the hardships which they undergo in the raid and on the march are fully as great as those endured by the Slaves brought from the East Coast, and are augmented by the fact that they are all children of tender years. For this revolting traffic is kept up for the purpose of supplying the harems of the wealthier classes of Turkey and Arabia with children of both sexes, and involves cruelties unspeakable. Thirty-seven children only were released at Aden in the year 1889, and of these eleven were girls. Though the eldest could not have been more than twelve, and the youngest barely seven years of age, every one of these infants had suffered shocking and indescribable cruelties, and they had all to be sent to the hospital at Aden. There, needless to say, they received every kindness, and were treated with the greatest skill; but the youngest child died shortly after her admittance, literally murdered by the inhuman cruelties referred to. The treatment to which the boys had been subjected was equally cruel.

It must not be supposed that this traffic is carried on on a small scale. The political officers at Aden reckon that from 2,000 to 5,000 children are taken across the Red Sea for this accursed purpose every year, and yet the market is never glutted.

LATEST TURKISH LAW.

If the law promulgated at Constantinople on the 15th December by the Turkish Government, and sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, is intended to be strictly enforced, a deadly blow has been struck at this traffic; but I fear that those who best know the Turkish nation will be the most doubtful of their *bonâ fides* in the matter. Slavery itself has the direct sanction of the Koran, and the horrible practices for which the Red Sea traffic provides victims are not looked upon in Turkey and Arabia with any of the disgust which they excite in the minds of the people of civilised countries.

If Article 7 of the Iradé were obeyed in the way that a similar law would be by civil functionaries of Western nations, there would be an end of the traffic at once, as all the markets are held on the western coast of Arabia, where the authority of the Sultan is undisputed; but this is hardly to be expected, as the great officials on this coast are—almost without exception—interested in the traffic themselves; if not actually as owners or consignees of the vessels, most certainly as customers of the Slave-dealers, to whose misdeeds they are consequently conveniently blind. However, the Iradé immensely strengthens the hands of those nations who are really in earnest about putting a stop to this traffic, and few Englishmen would care to believe that their own country was not so. And yet to cope with it we have at Aden only one small gun vessel. The disturbed state of our possessions on the Somali coast renders it necessary that Aden should never be left without a man-of-war for more than a very few days, so the only way in which the senior naval officer can contend with the Slave-trade is by detaching the greater number of the boats belonging to his ship to cruise on the coasts where Slaves may be expected to be embarked or landed.

INEFFICIENT CRUISERS.

The boats that can be spared are generally three in number—one steam cutter, one ten-oared sailing cutter, and one five-oared whaler. They are all the same length

—twenty-five feet, and in them from seven to fifteen full-grown men have to live and have their being during the hottest time of the year in the Red Sea. They are all open boats, and far from safe in the heavy seas and sudden squalls which so frequently occur in the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb and the southern part of the Red Sea. They are far inferior in speed to the native vessels, and the officers in charge have barely time to begin to learn something of the local currents, &c.—with which the Slave-traders are of course intimately acquainted—before it becomes necessary to send them to some cooler part of the station, if, indeed, they have not so broken down in health under the continuous work, anxiety, and exposure to the terrible heat as to be forced to return to England to recover their strength.

THE FRENCH FLAG.

The Slaves are brought in caravans from far inland, and marched to the coast to be embarked, the leader of the caravan choosing, as a rule, some point between Zeilah and Asab Bay for his embarkation. The Gulf of Tajurah, being under French influence, is a favourite locality for this purpose, as the French do not interfere with the trade in any way, even if they do not directly encourage it. As we have no treaty with France on the subject of the Slave-trade, our cruisers cannot stop vessels flying that flag except for the purpose of verifying their right to fly it, and even that cannot be done in sight of a French man-of-war or of a French flag flying on shore. Consequently, it is a very common thing to see a dhow—when chased by an English man-of-war's boat—hoist French colours and run in for Obokh, in sight of which place they know that English cruisers cannot, and French cruisers will not, interfere with them.

THE SLAVE FERRY.

From the Gulf of Tajurah they hug the African coast until past Roheita, when they are generally able to lay up to the northward of Perim and strike the Arabian coast, and beat up for Jeddah. They never make longer stretches off shore than are absolutely necessary, so as to be always able to run in shore and land their cargoes if there are any signs of danger. Their object is always to reach Jeddah, if possible, as it is there that the great market is held at which the pilgrims buy Slaves to take back with them on their return from Mecca. But should there be danger either from the weather or the proximity of hostile cruisers, they will land their cargoes anywhere to the northward of Perim and march them up to Jeddah inland. The distance across the Red Sea being so small, vessels are not built specially for this trade, as they are for that on the east coast; but any passing fishing boats are requisitioned by the leader of the caravan, and the passages of the Slaves are paid for at the rate of seven dollars a head when they are landed on the coast of Arabia.

The sharpest possible lookout is kept on the cruising-boats, and all their motions are closely watched. The Slavers know well that these boats are dependent on a depôt for their supplies of coal and water, and that they can never be either very long or very far away from it, and their every movement is always reported by some of the numerous canoes whose occupants make their living by fishing in the Red Sea. The caravans are frequently kept for many weeks on the coast before a favourable opportunity occurs for embarking the Slaves. Khor Anjar, Ras Siyân, and Roheita are also favourite places for the caravans, as dhows can as a rule fetch to the northward of Perim even from Khor Anjar.

It is little use to watch the points of embarkation, because the Slave-owners simply remain quiescent when they know that the cruisers are off the coast. Even if they have engaged vessels to take their Slaves they make some signal from the shore, on seeing which the vessels resume their ordinary occupations, and when searched have nothing to show that they had contemplated engaging in any but lawful business. The only chance of catching them is by a strict and careful blockade of the coast on which the disembarkation takes place, and this—with the means at present at the disposal of the naval officers—is possible only to a very limited extent. A small steam cutter, able to steam at the outside seven knots in smooth water, and carrying coal enough for twelve hours' continuous steaming at full speed, can be very easily located by those whose very existence depends upon evading her, and the sailing-boats may be said to be absolutely useless.

With four—or still better six—powerful steam launches, such as those known in the navy as picket-boats, a really efficient blockade of the Arabian coast could be maintained. Steaming twelve knots with ease, and carrying coal enough for four days' steaming at full speed, these little craft could watch the coast so thoroughly that no vessel could land at any point without being intercepted, while their superior accommodation would render life more bearable for the officers and men employed in them, and would largely diminish the number of invalids sent home from this station.

ITALIAN CRUISERS.

The Italians during the past year have been making strenuous efforts to destroy this trade, and have co-operated with us most heartily by giving us information when they obtained it from their native agents at or near Massowah. They kept three men-of-war constantly cruising during the season of the pilgrimage, and bought and manned native vessels, which cruised separately in the same way as the boats of our own men-of-war. They would certainly join with readiness in any scheme of blockade that was proposed by our Government, and their headquarters at Massowah would form an admirable link between our two stations of Perim and Suakim.

DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL.

One of the most horrible of all the hideous branches of the Slave-trade is the one which still flourishes in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Aden. The Red Sea is popularly supposed to be nearly free from this accursed traffic, but, like so many other common notions, this is very far from the truth. An article which has recently appeared in *Chambers's Journal* draws attention to the facts and depicts them in their true colours. The author writes as an eye-witness, and if any one doubts his veracity he has only to turn to some reports published by the Foreign Office for the fullest confirmation of all the terrible details given. The first is from Commander GISSING, of H.M.S. *Osprey*, written from Aden, in July, 1888, and the second is from Colonel E. V. STACE, First Assistant Resident at Aden, and bears the date June 30, 1889. The traffic differs widely from that which is carried on between the East African Coast and the Persian Gulf. It is far worse. The adult Slaves which are carried across the Arabian Sea find homes where they are well cared for and kindly treated. But the Red Sea trade consists in the transportation of children, kidnapped in Abyssinia or on its southern borders and sold at Jeddah and other parts of the Red Sea coasts for purposes which are so vile and so cruel, that the English language has no term adequate for their description. The places from which the victims are shipped are

well known, Commander GISSING giving the names of Tajourra, Roheita, and Beilul. Similarly, its magnitude is no secret, for he estimates the number taken across from these three places, or their immediate neighbourhood, at something like 4,600 a year. Nor is there the least mystery about their destination or usual course. These are well known by English captains.

How is it then that the traffic is allowed to continue? Simply that there is no naval force suited for its suppression. There are members of Slave-trading families in Aden who can always give warning of the movements of ships from that station, and few others are likely to be met with. Commander GISSING recommends that a vessel should every now and then be sent from the northern part of the Red Sea, so that her appearance near the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb should be unexpected. Unfortunately, for some time past such British ships as have been nominally patrolling these waters have been called off for political purposes in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. Hence the traders have had little to fear from the Power which is supposed to play the chief part in the suppression of their inhuman trade. The article in *Chambers's Journal* points out that the Italians have recently been the only police the traders had real reason to dread. It is little short of scandalous that we should let this abominable traffic go on so close to a great British station, when the establishment of an effective patrol would seem so easy. Moreover, at Perim Island there is a centre right in the track of the dhows on their short run across the narrow sea to the Arabian coast. They generally set sail at nightfall, when there is a fair wind from the south, so that the morning light finds them not far from the coast near Mocha. Hence they hug the shore, so as to land their living cargo on the first sign of danger. It is, therefore, small craft which are needed to catch them, and swift vessels which can overhaul them in the chase. Surely it ought not to be a serious strain upon our naval forces to supply a suitable flotilla capable of erasing this hideous blot upon the modern world.

ANOTHER REPORT.

The British Weekly publishes the following :

Public opinion and sympathy are not easily aroused in this busy and progressive age; and, when they are aroused, how easily gratified by what might appear to be extensive preventive measures, inexhaustible reports, and important conferences. After all has been said, and all good intentions carried out, we have to-day to face the fact that the Slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa, and on the Red Sea, is more extensive than ever it was, that more living merchandise is exported from Africa than before any measures were taken to check it. It is not a random statement when I say that *thousands* of Slaves—boys and girls—are transported to Arabian ports annually. During the pilgrimage season at Jedda, Mecca, and Medinah, there are enormous numbers sold. Last year a pathetic appeal reached us from four to five hundred Abyssinian Christians, many of noble birth, captured in the Mahdist war, and sent over to Mecca to be sold as Slaves. Some time after this a Mohammedan pilgrim Slave from Mecca informed us that near to the Slave market where these Abyssinians were on sale was posted a large paper from Stamboul (Constantinople) with an edict from the Sultan, denouncing the Slave traffic, and yet, in the face of this, the officials there permitted these creatures to be sold and bought by the merchants at pleasure. Let us not forget that these are our Christian brethren, who are sold thus, and that to Mohammedans. Shall we, therefore, any longer be duped by fair promises and vain words. This fact was brought before the Anti-Slavery Society last year. Why did they not then demand that, in fulfilment of treaty stipulations, Turkey should at once

command the release of these unfortunates? (*See note at bottom.) Caravans to Damascus and the interior of Arabia take large numbers, and so the Mohammedan world are free to continue what by the Koran is permitted as a civil institution—Slavery. Here let us ask, in face of the fact that there has been issued from the Ottoman Court, as a result of the recent Conference, a fresh edict denouncing traffic in Slaves :—What sincere Mohammedan can conscientiously recognise such an edict, when he knows that the law of any Mohammedan country is Koranic law, and he abides by it? It was only yesterday that a batch of 150 boys and girls were admitted to Hodeidah, a Turkish port on the Arabian side of the Red Sea, the authorities being bribed to the extent of nine dollars a head to admit them, and were sold in a public market by auction ; this is corroborated by a young Scotchman who resided there, and who ransomed one of the helpless little ones for the sum of 175 dollars. On the preceding week another batch of over one hundred were admitted, and, as there was a report that the English gunboat was out of Aden harbour, some 1,500 were waiting outside among the small islands at the foot of the Red Sea until the way was clear.

GREAT TRADE IN CHRISTIAN SLAVES.

May these facts, therefore, move the hearts of the free-born to do something for the countless numbers of their fellow-beings who are ruthlessly wrenched from their homes, and sold as merchandise to satisfy the licentious appetites of unprincipled Mohammedans. I cannot speak of lacerating chains and heavy yoke collars, of wearisome, blood-stained marches and cruel Slave-drivers. No ! it is to the interest of the merchant in this case to preserve the health and robustness of his human merchandise, moreover, chains are unnecessary, the victims being almost entirely helpless young boys and girls. If you ask me why ? and what use are they so young ? I would blush to see in print an account of the treatment given to these little boys and girls : well merited indeed would be the judgments of Sodom and Gomorrah on these cruel, licentious Mohammedans. The hunting-ground from which these little ones are stolen is Gallaland, especially the country south and west of Shoa, from all accounts a beautiful country, but having its country's blood sapped out of it by the merciless Slave-dealer. Of the 213 Slaves rescued by H.M.S. *Osprey*, eighteen months ago, most of them had been kidnapped by Mohammedan Gallas, taken to the Slave markets and sold, many of them passing through the hands of ten merchants before reaching the coast. Captain GISSING, of H.M.S. *Osprey*, thus describes the batch of Slaves when captured, and although it does not quite bear out what I say, I give it verbatim : Except four men, all the rest were women and children, and their pitiable condition, particularly that of the little boys, was heartrending to witness. The latter looked like small ebony skeletons, many of their wee miserable bodies exhibiting the traces of recent ill-treatment. All of them nearly had to be lifted on board, their limbs being so cramped by confinement. But once out of the filthy boats that brought them from Africa, the demonstrative greetings they bestowed upon their relatives as they recognised one another on the deck of the *Osprey* were peculiarly affecting ; hugging, kissing, and crying with delight were the order of the hour. Two young girls particularly attracted notice. They seemed to be about fifteen and sixteen years of age, were very good-looking, and evidently sisters. The elder was brought on board first, where she watched with the most intense eagerness until she saw her sister handed

[*Note by ED. REPORTER.—The ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY did take all the means in its power by publishing facts in the Daily Press, and by appeals through Parliament, which eventually resulted in the Meeting of the Anti-Slave-Trade Conference now sitting in Brussels.]

through the port, when, with a shriek of joy, she bounded to meet her, clasped her neck, and covered her with caresses. At the shipping of the Slaves a mother and her four children had got separated and placed in different dhows, but their re-union now was something rarely to be witnessed, and the sight of their frantic ecstasy in each other's arms left hardly a dry eye on the steamer's quarter-deck."

STOP THE DEMAND IF YOU WISH TO STOP THE SUPPLY.

The result of the blockade on the East Coast has been most unsatisfactory, simply because it was of too short duration. The Slave merchant has a keen eye to business, he sees his risks are great while there are gun-boats cruising about, and thinks nothing of keeping his living merchandise for eighteen months or two years in the hope of getting a safe opportunity of exporting them. This is verified by the fact that since the blockade was raised the Slave-trade has been brisker than ever. Professor DRUMMOND has said, "Cleanse the fountain at its source, and the main sewers will be purified." This is well in theory, but how are we to get at its source. Branching from the main track on the Slave march are innumerable small feeders, penetrating into districts quite unknown, let alone unsafe, to Europeans. How then are they to be reached? Impossible! The presence of missionaries and other civilising agencies at work in the centre of Africa are a mere bagatelle compared with the vast regions and oceans of humanity that are never reached by such influences. What we would say then is:—Check the demand, and the supply will soon be reduced to a minimum. It has already been proposed to the Home Government to have—perhaps in co-operation with the other nations interested in, and anxious for, the suppression of the Slave-trade—one or two light, swift cruisers, well armed, to cruise constantly up and down the eastern shore of the Red Sea, between the towns of Hodeidah, Lohia, Mocha, Jedda, and Yembo. At each of these ports let the present native consular agents be replaced by Englishmen, who, in addition to their ordinary duties, shall be remunerated to pay special attention to the suppression of the traffic in Slaves. Slave-owners, dreading the European eye, often land their cargo at some quiet, uninhabited spot on the coast, and bring them in stealthily to the large towns by night, bribing the gate-keepers and officials to admit them. They are put up at some fondak, or empty house, and sold by auction or private bargain, so that judicious discrimination and diplomacy would be necessary to convict a man of trafficking in Slaves. English and European traders with the Red Sea ports acknowledge that some such scheme as that proposed is the only way to check the enormous annual importation of Slaves. With one gun-boat stationed at Aden, nothing can possibly be done. No sooner does the gun-boat steam out of Aden Harbour than every Slave-dealer is made aware of the fact; Aden being connected by wire with Assab (Italian) on the African side of the Red Sea, and lying right in the thick of these ports from which Slaves are exported.

THE FRENCH IN THE RED SEA.

It is worthy of note that Slaves are publicly exported from the town of Tajurrah, right under the French flag. A French gun-boat is in these quarters, its object presumably being the suppression of the Slave-trade, but what can we expect from them, when, according to the captain's own confession, he has orders to catch as few Slave dhows as possible. The blame, however, lies with Turkey, whose dominions and subjects offer an ever-increasing market for dealers in human flesh. One difficulty always presents itself to the local authorities when Slaves are captured, and that is: What is to be done with them? and unless a central home for rescued Slaves on an extensive scale be started, or perhaps a colony started in some part of King MENELEK's dominion, this will always be a snare to the authorities to relax their efforts in capturing them. King MENELEK is anxious for the suppression of the Slave-trade, and, as a proof of this, he has lately issued a proclamation that anyone found trafficking in Slaves, or kidnapping in his dominions, will be buried alive with their head above ground until life is extinct. If we are really in earnest for the suppression of the Slave-trade, let us be active; too many half measures have already been adopted, and if we ask why nothing is being done, we have our eyes fogged, and our thoughts misdirected into other channels, by the mysterious reply, "that for political reasons we cannot interfere."

PERIM ISLAND.

No place could be better adapted for the base of operations of a flotilla such as I have suggested than the Island of Perim. It absolutely commands the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, so that, given efficient boats and officers whose hearts were in the work—and I venture to think that there would be no lack of these latter if they were asked for—it would be impossible for any vessel to enter the Red Sea from the southward without undergoing inspection. The island is in the hands of the Perim Coal Company, who have always shown the greatest courtesy to naval officers employed in the suppression of the Slave-trade. It was the headquarters of the boats of H.M.S. *Ranger* last year, and they were assisted by the company in every possible way. Their factory was always at their disposal for any repairs the boats might require, and their engineers would at any time cheerfully work night and day to make good any defects that would have prevented the boats from going to sea, while it would be impossible to over-estimate the hospitality and kindness always shown by the manager and his subordinates to the officers and boats' crews. The surgeon of the company also was always ready to give them the benefit of his skill and attention whenever it was required; and the fact that the company always keeps an experienced and able medical practitioner in its employ on the island, adds greatly to its value as a boat-cruising centre.

STEAM LAUNCHES.

The launches should be altogether independent of the man-of-war at Aden, and their duty should be the suppression of the Slave-trade and nothing else. In this way the trade could be practically put an end to as long as the blockade of the Arabian coast was maintained; but the great danger would be the withdrawal of the boats as soon as the trade showed signs of material diminution. This was done in the case of the *London*, stationed at Zanzibar for the suppression of the Slave-trade on the east coast of Africa. As soon as a year came in which few captures were made it was concluded that the Slave-trade was finally crushed, and the vessel was withdrawn, when the trade at once revived with even more than its original vigour. To do any good, the trade must be kept down with a strong hand for enough years for the people to learn to do without Slaves, and so stop the demand.

It seems curious that the KING OF ABYSSINIA does not take more active steps for the protection of his subjects, as most of these children are taken from his dominions; but I hope that was partly the object of the Abyssinian embassy which visited Zeilah in November last.

ENGLAND'S DUTY.

The question as to whether the employment of adult negroes as Slaves for manual labour is a good or a bad thing for them is one that has been much discussed in the past; but there can be no two ways of looking at the case of these unfortunate children, and all Europe should rise and insist that such a scandal should cease. The new Treaty between England and Italy provides that vessels carrying Slaves under their flags should be treated as pirates, and surely vessels under any flag whatsoever should be so treated when they are caught carrying children as Slaves for such a traffic as this. But the Turkish Government seems to consider one to two years' imprisonment an adequate punishment; and the French Government apparently thinks the offence too trivial to require legislating for; while we, who have always led the way in the endeavour to put down Slavery in every form, content ourselves with making what may be called a nominal protest against the most horrible side of it, and are forced to acknowledge that the Italians have shown treble the zeal and earnestness that we have.

It is high time that this state of affairs should cease, and that England should once more resume her proud position as champion of the oppressed; and there never was a more favourable time than the present for commencing an attack upon this abominable trade and carrying it to a satisfactory conclusion.

Bab-el-Mandeb means "the gate of tears," and the name must have fearful significance for some of these poor children; but if Perim—which might be called the hinges of the gate—is made the headquarters of a flotilla of English boats for the purpose of releasing the Slaves, the name of the Strait may be altered to "the gate of the drying of tears."

PARLIAMENTARY.

SLAVERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *May 15th.*

In answer to Sir G. CAMPBELL,

Sir J. FERGUSON said,—Her Majesty's Government are informed that the British East Africa Company have approved a proclamation issued by their Administrator in Zanzibar, with the assent of the chiefs and the peoples concerned, decreeing immunity from Slavery within a certain area in the company's territory, and beyond the ten-mile limit. It is understood that the proclamation does not affect the *status* of Slavery as at present existent.

CONGO IMPORT DUTIES.

In answer to Mr. SCHWANN,

Sir J. FERGUSON said,—Her Majesty's Government are under an engagement to keep the proceedings of the Anti-Slavery Conference secret until its labours are terminated. I regret, therefore, that I cannot make any statement as to what passed on the occasion referred to beyond saying that the British Plenipotentiaries did not act without authority.

THE AFFAIRS OF EAST AFRICA AND PORTUGAL.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *May 16th.*

The EARL OF HARROWBY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a settlement had now been arrived at with Portugal as to affairs in East Africa; and, if so, whether he could lay papers upon the table showing the boundaries of the territories which would be hereafter within the respective spheres of influence of Great Britain and Portugal. The noble earl, in the course of his remarks, said that the Blue Book laid on the table showed what the rights of Portugal were in regard to Nyassa and the Shiré River, and it showed, too, that the noble Marquis had been most patient and long-suffering in all his dealings with Portugal, which had for two years done things in East Africa which were unfriendly and hostile to this country. Everything showed that the native races desired to be subject to England, and we had no right to make any agreement by which those vast countries should be handed over to a nation which, though having good intentions, had done so little for civilisation in Africa.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY—My lords, my noble friend has made a most interesting speech on a subject with which he is well acquainted, and I wish it was in my power to imitate the fulness of his treatment and the frankness of his expressions. More perhaps than on any previous occasion that has happened to me do I regret that the institutions of this country do not afford any opportunity for those who represent the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government to speak to the legislative power of the country without at the same time taking into its confidence all other persons in the world. I should be very glad if it were in my power to speak frankly to a committee on foreign relations sitting in secret session. If I had that opportunity there is a great deal which I should like to say. But your lordships, I think, will sympathise with me when I observe much more modest proportions in the extent of my observations to you to-night. We are in the midst of negotiations—negotiations not only with Portugal, but with other countries—and of course any observation

which I might make upon this question from almost any point of view could not be without its effect on the progress of these negotiations. I think, therefore, I shall best perform my duty, and fulfil the wishes of my noble friend, while expressing the deepest sympathy with the feelings to which he has given utterance, if I say that our discussions with Portugal are still going on, that we shall decline to recognise as an adequate foundation for territorial claims distant historical tradition—(hear, hear)—and upon the other hand we have no wish to oppose any obstacle to the exercise on the part of Portugal of rights which we desire to exercise ourselves; viz., to find a fitting opening for the energies of our population and the progress of our trade; still less to the exercise of those philanthropic feelings and the fulfilment of those duties to which my noble friend has called attention. But how soon the negotiations will come to a conclusion it is not in my power to say. I recognise the desirability of early progress, but I always recognise, as your lordships know, the unwisdom of sacrificing any substantial aim to the mere rapidity of conclusion. (Hear, hear). There is one point on which I should wish to speak with somewhat more openness. My noble friend made allusion to the Zambezi and Shiré River and the action of Portugal in stopping vessels on that highway. Of that I wish to say it is not a matter of negotiation at all. (Hear, hear). We consider those rivers to be international highways, and we ask them to be opened up, not for ourselves only, but for everybody else, and that if anybody hinders that freedom of traffic on that highway the responsibility must rest on those who do so. (Hear, hear). With regard to the territorial question, it is one of exceeding difficulty. Feeling is running rather high in this country at the present moment in one particular direction. I am not sure whether that feeling is always restrained within the limits of wisdom and discretion. I am not sure that people always remember that dominion is not an unmitigated luxury, but that it carries with it duties, burdens, obligations, and dangers. (Hear, hear). My noble friend pointed out the want of wisdom in the rulers of Portugal when they wished to stretch their territory from the shore of the Atlantic to the shore of the Indian Ocean, and he asked whether that was a measure which would increase the strength or the happiness of Portugal. I would ask my noble friend, when he supports what I may call a similar proposal with regard to ourselves, whether something of that suggestion may not be made to a kingdom much more powerful than Portugal, and which has even yet a limit to its power, "*Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur.*" (Hear, hear). I hope that we shall exact that which is the right of this country, that which is for its honour, strength, and its welfare; and I also hope that we shall not be seduced into undertaking obligations which are beyond our strength to perform consistently with the other duties which we have, both at home and in every other quarter of the globe. (Hear, hear).

THE ANTI-SLAVERY CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *May 20.*

Mr. SCHWANN asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with reference to the proposals made to the Anti-Slavery Congress for the imposition of Customs duties on the Congo, whether, before the Government committed this country to that policy, that House would have an opportunity of an explanation of the reasons which might exist for adopting such a policy, and of expressing its opinion thereon.

Sir J. FERGUSSON—There would be obvious inconvenience in any discussion taking place in this House while the Conference is still sitting, but British interests in connection with this matter will not be lost sight of.

AFRICAN POLICY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *May 22nd.*

On going into Committee of Supply the following important Debate arose upon British policy in Africa, and considering the prominent position which Africa now occupies in the public mind we reproduce *The Times* report in full :—

Mr. E. BECKETT drew attention to the position of affairs in Central and South Africa. He said Sir PERCY ANDERSON had been sent to Berlin in order to negotiate the spheres of influence of Germany and of England in Africa. Happily, those negotiations were for the present suspended, and he hoped that before they were resumed an expression of opinion on the part of that House might enforce the hand of the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY. It was obvious that the limits of the frontiers ought to be more clearly defined than they now were. He did not blame the Government for opening those negotiations, and he trusted that in the conduct of them the Government would show themselves no more worthy of censure in connexion with this important matter. The point he wished to raise was entirely due to the fault of the Government. Many questions had been addressed to them, and many unsatisfactory answers had been given on the subject. They did not wish to press the Government unduly. All that they wished was to have a positive assurance that our right of way from the South to the North of Africa and the territory now within the sphere of British influence would not be handed over to Germany. (Hear, hear.) If such an assurance had been given this debate would not have been raised. If the Government could have given that assurance, they would have done so in order to set at rest the minds of the people. The territories respecting which anxiety was felt in the public mind extended northwards from the Zambesi along Lakes Nyassa, Tanganyika, and the Victoria Nyanza to the Albert Nyanza. Quite recently the question of Uganda and, in South Africa, of the territory lying between Bechuanaland in 20 deg. of longitude and the Zambesi had caused much anxiety. Was it true to say that those territories had not yet been geographically defined? It was true that no hard and fast line had been drawn upon the map as regarded the territory that surrounded the German sphere of influence in East Africa, though it was understood what that sphere was to be. But in South-West Africa the British sphere of influence was precisely and geographically defined, and the expression of any doubt or uncertainty on the part of the Government as to the extent and limits of our spheres of influence could proceed only from a desire to have them doubtful and uncertain, so that if any concessions were made to Germany the Government might be able to tell the country that there had been no surrender. That device was a little too transparent. He asked this question : Did the Government, in opening negotiations with Germany, state exactly what territory they considered inalienable and what territory they were prepared to throw into the melting-pot. We had a right to hold that by far the larger part of the territory in question was inalienably ours. It was perfectly true the Germans were full of friendly expressions ; but if they looked at their aim and object, as translated by their actions, we should see that their aim was to limit our expansion in Africa, and to expand their own limitations. Starting from the East and West Coasts, the Germans wanted to join hands in the centre of Africa, and thus to cut us off from ever realising our ambition to own an unbroken strip of territory from Cape Colony to the sources of the Nile. He did not blame the Germans, though he would blame any

English Government that allowed them to accomplish that object. He had been informed, on unimpeachable authority, exactly what it was that Germany required at our hands, taking advantage of this admission made by the Government that the north-west corner of Bechuanaland had no very clearly defined boundary. The Germans wanted an intersecting line between 20 deg. of longitude and 22 deg. of latitude across the Zambesi. If that concession were made the Germans would become absolute owners of the territory surrounding the Upper Zambesi, and it would be a great misfortune if that rich and fertile country fell into the hands of the Germans—a country which had been declared to be ours by hunters and explorers, and pretty nearly everybody except Her Majesty's Government. Another important point was this, that we had promised by more than one document that the Bechuana should be under our protection, and the result of what the Government proposed to do would be to divide one of the Bechuana tribes, placing one-half under our protection and the other half under the Germans. If that were done, we should undoubtedly excite the indignation of all Bechuana, and their attitude, which so far had been loyal and friendly, might be changed into an attitude of distrust. Not very long ago a remarkable article appeared in Berlin, pointing out that the Germans and the Dutch were practically the same race, and that their differences of opinion were so small and of so little importance that the two nations might be regarded as brothers. "Why should not," it said, "the Germans and the Dutch combine to drive England out of Africa?" A few years ago that would have been absurd; but every year made it less and less absurd now, and one morning we might be surprised by a German and Dutch alliance. His last and strongest objection was that this concession of territory must bar our expansion to the north-west. There was a vast stretch of territory to the north-west; and if the Government gave way to Germany on this point—if they fixed a limit to the expansion of England northward, and handed over this valuable territory to Germany, they would be setting the coping-stone on the vast pile of blunders that successive Governments had committed in South Africa. The influence of Germany was increasing year by year, and every mile of the territory they had taken had been discovered and explored by Englishman. Mr. STANLEY had spoken strongly of the value of the land we had allowed to pass out of our hands, and his words had been and would be weighed in Germany, and probably would be acted upon; for the Germans were fully alive to the advantages to which we so obstinately blinded our eyes. Mr. STANLEY said that he should be the first to advise the British East Africa Company to retire altogether and give the thing up as a bad job if any more surrenders were made. Mr. STANLEY had come back with his pockets full of treaties, and England should back him up, and not throw up the sponge and sit idly by while the Germans absorbed tracts of country which might support millions of Englishmen. He did not ask that we should send out expeditions to Africa, but he did ask that what had been won for us by individuals should not be surrendered, and that the pioneers of English civilisation should feel that they were supported by the strong arm of the English Government, because, as the German writer remarked, there was a new empire, larger than even the Indian Empire, awaiting that Power which had sufficient strength, courage, and intelligence to acquire it. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by moving that the item for the Foreign Office be reduced by the sum of £500.

After an unsuccessful attempt to count out the House,

MR. BUCHANAN said that, in his opinion, a discussion on the relations of Germany

and this country in Africa would be of great service to Her Majesty's Government. He did not think that there had ever been a Parliament in which less information had been given upon foreign affairs or less opportunity of discussing these questions, and they had suffered particularly with regard to their interests in Africa from this cause. If the country had been in a position to judge of the matter, he did not think that we should have given up our position at Zanzibar as we had done. With regard to Nyassaland, he had supported the action of the Government with regard to Portugal, but he thought that a great deal of the difficulty had been due to the fact that the House and the country had not been in possession of the full views which Her Majesty's Government had taken on the question. Although he was not going to make an attack upon the Government as the hon. member had done who had moved the reduction, he thought that LORD SALISBURY in his conduct of affairs in Africa had sacrificed British interests in Africa to British interests in Europe. With regard to the rivalry between the chartered German Company and the chartered British Company he would press upon the Government that while they should take care that no limitation should be placed upon the commercial development and expansion of our subjects in the territory within the control of the East Africa Company by political action, and while the Government should see that they had a free hand to develop commerce according to their charter, it was not incumbent upon the Government to help them further than that. He would like to have some further information from the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs as to matters in Nyassaland and the Shiré Highlands, and as to whether they were endeavouring to arrive at some settlement of our position there which could be looked forward to as definite and permanent. Her Majesty's Government should make it clear to Portugal that the Zambesi was to be a free waterway into the interior of Africa to all the nations of the world, and that the Shiré River and Lake Nyassa should also be free. He would urge upon the Government, with regard to the questions at issue respecting North-East Africa, that care should be taken that our commercial freedom was in no way impaired or our commercial development hindered by any arrangements with Germany or other foreign Power. Further, that they should take steps to insure the free navigation of the Zambesi and the Shiré Rivers. With respect to South-West Africa, our interests were small compared with those of Cape Colony and our other South African colonies, and he trusted that Her Majesty's Government would make it a *sine qua non* in any negotiations with Germany that they should make certain that Cape Colony was with us.

Sir J. FERGUSSON hoped the Committee would excuse him if he offered some considerations to show why a long discussion on the subject at the present time was undesirable, and would serve no useful purpose. He did not undervalue or deprecate the legitimate aspirations of his fellow-countrymen, and he was not wanting in admiration at the sacrifices of those who had made the discoveries which had opened up to civilisation and paved the way for the colonising efforts of our own and other nations. He hoped that the mission of our countrymen was not yet fulfilled, but that further great regions would be opened up to civilisation and Christianity. (Ministerial cheers and "Oh, oh," from the Opposition.) What he had said might give offence to some, but he was quite sure that the feeling he had expressed was deeply seated in this country, and that there were many who were ready to sacrifice themselves in those great efforts which in times past had conferred such honour on our nation. (Ministerial cheers.) He could not agree with the hon. member who had just sat

down that the object of negotiations conducted by the Government of this country was best promoted by public discussion while such negotiations were in progress. It placed the Government in this position—either they must subscribe to or deny propositions. If they committed themselves to those propositions it was evident that they must stand by them; while, on the other hand, if they denied them they might be supposed to be indifferent to objects which many were in favour of. Therefore, it was manifest that they must be silent, because it was impossible they could reveal their position or defeat their own efforts by declarations of their own. (Hear, hear.) He presumed that the hon. member who had moved the reduction of the vote did not blame Her Majesty's Government for having entered into negotiations as to the delimitation of our sphere of influence in South Africa. It was evident that where the nations of Europe were competing for influence in the comparatively untrod regions which opened up markets for their commerce and colonisation there must be rivalries and jealousies, and it was to the highest degree important that nations which had much in common and which wished to act fairly in regard to their respective claims should desire as far as possible to avoid friction and jealousy by timely settlement of their interests if possible, so that they could move forward on their new missions on parallel lines. It was said that no satisfactory answer had been given as to the progress of the negotiations, but it was impossible to enter into the questions involved while the matters were under discussion. This country had interests to maintain, and he trusted Her Majesty's Government would not be slow to maintain them (hear, hear), and when the negotiations were completed every explanation would be given to the House. Reference had been made to rumours which were current as to sacrifices which had been consented to after discussion by Her Majesty's Government. Those rumours had not reached him, and he was quite sure that they derived no authority from those who were engaged in confidential negotiations on behalf of the English and German Governments. It would be very convenient, no doubt, if Parliament sat in secret Session, for then Her Majesty's Government could communicate to hon. members, who no doubt had the interests of the country as much at heart as themselves, the details of pending negotiations, but that could not be done. His hon. friend had talked about land passing out of our possession. Some people talked and wrote about parts of Africa, through which some of our enterprising fellow-countrymen had travelled, as if it was our inheritance. (Opposition cheers.) While he hoped the Government would not be behindhand in Africa any more than elsewhere, people really must not talk as if we had an indefeasible right to the country. (Opposition cheers.) We must allow other nations to have similar aspirations to our own. What the Government and the House of Commons had to see to was that our interests were not neglected. Where we had claimed rights and asserted them we should not lightly give them up; but the Government were dealing with a friendly Power, and negotiations were going on on terms of mutual respect and confidence, which were engendered by past experience and by the remarkable unanimity which had attended the operations of Great Britain and Germany in the recent operations on the West Coast of Africa. The Government had a full sense of the claims which our fellow-countrymen possessed on account of their past enterprise. They were not unmindful of the claims which our commerce had to legitimate expansion, and these objects were entirely consistent with a due respect to similar objects on the part of neighbouring States. The Government were endeavouring, by the limitation of spheres of influence, to obviate causes of jealousy and friction in the time to come. The security that the country and the House had

as against the Government was that the result of those negotiations could not long be concealed, and if in any way the interests of the country were neglected a speedy retribution would attend those who had so neglected those interests. Having that speedy review and verdict before their eyes, the Government, hon. members might feel sure, would not be likely to neglect the great interests which they, in common with all their fellow-countrymen, had at heart. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for West Edinburgh had also referred to the interests of the region further south in the neighbourhood of Lake Nyassa, where the hon. member's countrymen and his own had done good work in the cause of civilisation and Christianity. The Government, he thought, had shown of late that they were fully alive to the rights which their fellow-countrymen had obtained there by being first in the field. They had maintained their right to the free navigation of the Zambesi River. They had refused to allow it to be closed against us. They had claimed that their fellow-countrymen in the Shiré Highlands and on the shores of Lake Nyassa should not be endangered by the invasion of any other Power, and necessarily it would be their object to obtain and secure and retain access to other regions where we had interests. He would ask the Committee to show the same reticence and forbearance the Government were so sensible of in past years, which he hoped they had not been unworthy of, and the confidence he now asked from the Committee would not be misplaced, and in that sense he deprecated prolonging the discussion.

Sir G. BADEN-POWELL could assure the hon. member opposite that he was in no way financially interested in African companies, one of whose chief objects was to introduce Christianity and civilisation among the natives and to suppress the liquor traffic and put an end to Slavery. (Laughter.) He was sorry that hon. members opposite appeared to be incapable of appreciating such motives. The only real remedy for the two great evils of Slavery and the drink traffic was for some civilised Power to get hold of the interior of the country and to keep out all filibustering agencies. Enough had been said to indicate how strong was the feeling of all parties in favour of putting backbone into the policy of this country in Africa, and that being the case, it was not necessary by discussion to hamper the negotiations that were proceeding. (Hear, hear.)

Sir G. CAMPBELL admitted that in matters of foreign policy he had a large measure of confidence in the present head of the Foreign Office. Whilst we ought to take part in a friendly way with other Powers in civilising Africa, we must not yield too much to adventurers who obtained concessions and hawked them about for sale in the City; that was a kind of enterprise that was to be looked upon with suspicion. (Hear, hear.) These people were always going to stop the liquor traffic and the Slave-trade when they wanted to get up a company. (Hear, hear.) Concessionaires who were going to enter Africa with Bibles and bullets required to be very considerably controlled. He had great doubts of the Christianity that was spread by bullets. It was premature to talk of a great Anglo-Saxon empire in Africa. The Under-Secretary had in fair terms invited them to be cautious, and he would not be a party to pushing the Government further in this matter. (Hear, hear.)

Sir W. BARTHELOT said that with our growing population it was with us a pressing necessity to extend our trade, and the more so as we had to cope with nations who were protectionists in policy, and whose object it was to secure markets for themselves alone. If we lost prestige in this matter we should soon fall from the rank we held; and those who came after us would say we had failed in our duty. The Under-Secretary was right in deprecating the discussion of questions that were

the subject of negotiations; but still the right hon. gentleman had kept them a long time in suspense on a great many questions. (Hear, hear.) Twice last year the right hon. gentleman was asked questions about our British India fellow-subjects, and he should now like to know what reparation they had received from Germany. If Germany had been in our position reparation would have been obtained long ago.

The question was put, and the Chairman declared that the "Noes" had it, but his ruling having been persistently challenged by Dr. TANNER the House was cleared for a division. When the question was again put the hon. member still insisted on challenging a division, but as he was unable to find a second teller, the Chairman ruled that the "Noes" had it, and the amendment was accordingly negatived.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

BRUSSELS.

TO-DAY the Conference discussed the Sandford proposal for preventing the importation of adulterated spirits into Africa. As I stated would be the case, the Conference, while expressing full sympathy with the object in view, declared itself incompetent to set up a standard by which the quality of liquors should be judged. Finally, it was resolved to insert the suggestion in the protocols of the Conference only, and not to include it in the general treaty.

The liquor traffic question is thus finally solved, and the only question remaining is that of the Congo import duties. I have reason to believe that the Dutch Minister has received instructions to waive all opposition to the latter, so that the consent of the United States alone is wanting to make the agreement complete. One hundred and five clauses of the general treaty are already in the printers' hands.—*Manchester Guardian*, June 6.

THE Anti-Slavery Conference has been occupied lately with the discussion of the proposition of the Free State to establish duties on goods imported into Africa. The representatives of the United States and Holland have not yet received definite instructions; but those of other countries announce that their respective Governments are favourable to the plan. The proposition, the *Daily News* correspondent at Brussels is told, may be considered as adopted. It is stated at Brussels that a hitch has occurred at the Anti-Slavery Conference in consequence of Turkey's not agreeing to some of the proposals made by delegates of other Powers. The representatives of England and Germany have both used their influence to persuade Turkey to acquiesce in the decisions of the Conference, but the Porte still seems reluctant to do so.—*Echo*, June 7.

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The History of the Stevenson Road.

The Standard, of June 16th, publishes the following interesting and valuable contribution from a well-informed correspondent, which ought to dispose, once for all, of the ridiculous pretence set up by the German Colonial party, that the Stevenson Road, even if it ever existed, has long since been closed.

One of the advantages of war, according to a famous cartographer, is to teach the world geography. We are not at war with anybody, and between us and our German rivals in Central Africa there is not, and we hope never will be, anything but the friendliest of Diplomatic relations. However, the discussions which are at present in progress regarding our respective spheres of action around the great lakes of the continent bid fair to familiarise the two nations with the course of rivers, and the trend of mountains in that region, and among the names which have of late been in everybody's mouth is the "Stevenson Road." Not only is it almost the solitary approach to a highway in the whole of Central Africa, but it was constructed in part at a time when the public-spirited designer never dreamt that it would, with its levelled stumps and rudely-bridged ravines, form an introconvertible proof of effective British occupation in that portion of Nyassa-Tanganyika Land.

THE LATE MR. JAMES STEWART.

It is now eleven years since the line it afterwards took was surveyed by the late Mr. JAMES STEWART, a civil engineer employed in the Indian Public Works Department. This gentleman having a furlough from his professional duties, utilised it by a visit to his cousin, the well-known head of the Mission then stationed at Livingstonia, at the south-east end of Lake Nyassa, but whose head-quarters have since then been removed to the healthier and more convenient post of Bandawe. The greater part of this busy holiday was taken up with a rough reconnaissance of the comparatively narrow isthmus between this sheet of water and the still more extensive Tanganyika. At that time this Divide, which is high enough to divert the outflow of the two lakes to the opposite sides of the continent, was little, if at all, known. For though YOUNG visited the north end of Nyassa fourteen years ago, and ELTON in 1878, STEWART and THOMSON reached the plateau so nearly at the same time that they met each other, and therefore share in the honour of having first traversed it. But Mr. STEWART was its surveyor, and he it was who laid out and partially constructed the road. Unhappily, Mr. STEWART, who resigned his appointment in India, in order to devote himself to the work of civilising Africa, did not live to complete his labour of love. Only fifty-two miles of that roadway, in by far the most difficult portion of the country, have, we are informed by Dr. CROSS, who has but recently returned from visiting it, been made, while traffic over it has been temporarily interrupted by the recent razzia of the Slave-traders, which gave rise to what is known as the Karongas trouble.

GERMAN STATEMENTS.

In the face of these facts, it is amazing to read that Herr VOHSEN, speaking in the name of the German Colonial Party, affirms that if the Stevenson Road ever existed, it has long been closed, citing Professor DRUMMOND in confirmation of that astounding statement. It is true that the author of "Tropical Africa" advanced only a short way upon the road, but at the time when Dr. DRUMMOND made his trip from the north-western end of Lake Nyassa there was a considerable traffic by traders,

missionaries, and tribesmen between the two sheets of water, while the native workmen were still engaged upon the road, mainly at the cost of the enterprising Glasgow merchant after whom it is named. All this is, of course, perfectly well known to scores of geographers, missionaries, and merchants.

REFUTED BY FACTS.

For nine years the African Lakes Company have had agents travelling and trading there, while the Scottish missionaries have occupied the neighbouring hills for six-and-a-half years. The graves of seven English subjects are in that debated—but not debateable—land. GIRAUD and TRIVIER, the French explorers, know the truth; and had Major WISSMANN been consulted, that gallant officer, who passed from Tanganyika to Nyassa in 1887, could have saved his official superior from blundering so badly. Mr. STEWART's first essay was rather unfortunate, several of his men having been killed or taken prisoners by MWEMBERA, the Chief on whose territory the outrage occurred. This happened in the autumn of 1881. But so enamoured were the other tribes of the unwonted path creeping through their country, that they declared war against the unfriendly MWEMBERA; though, on the intervention of Mr. STEWART, they allowed him to purge his offence by the payment of a heavy fine. The work was, however, only temporarily interrupted. For by June, 1882, Mr. STEWART had again one hundred labourers engaged on this rough piece of engineering, while he himself was reconnoitring the shores of Nyassa for a safe harbour, and the heights of the isthmus for a site fitted for a sanatorium. The route, which has continued to follow that laid down by this self-denying pioneer, begins at Karonga, and proceeds tolerably direct to Niumkolo or Abercorn, on Hore's Bay, on Lake Tanganyika, a bight named in honour of the worthy sea captain who has for many years been an active lay member of the London Missionary Society's staff in that region, and whose "valuable observations on the physical geography" of the neighbouring region will to-day be acknowledged by the Geographical Society bestowing on him the Peek grant at their disposal. Compared with roads in Germany, one can well believe that the highway which Mr. JAMES STEVENSON promoted does not commend itself to Herr VOHSEN as quite a turnpike. It is not macadamised, and the stumps are many and aggressive. Vegetation in the tropics also grows apace, and may, here and there, have encroached on the clearances of the axe men. But, without possessing milestones at due distances, and a beershop every furlong or two, this pioneer path between Nyassa and Tanganyika is a wonderful work in its way, and, apart from its testimony to the "effective occupation" of the regions which it passes through and connects, says much for the perseverance, foresight, and enterprise of our countrymen.

THE WATERSHED.

From the nature of the watershed between two such basins, the route across it must necessarily be in places a little steep. After traversing for eleven miles the comparatively flat country bordering the shores of Nyassa, the hills which form the northern boundary of that basin are reached. The pass through which the road goes is one of the easiest in all the Nyassa Highlands, and, apparently, much lower than the one by which Mr. THOMSON crossed them, further to the north. Once the hills are ascended, the great plateau stretching between the two lakes maintains a tolerably uniform elevation of between four thousand and five thousand feet above the sea. The rainfall of this region is sufficient, and the climate cool and bracing. Villages abound, and at every village there are cattle, sheep, and goats in abundance, though the raids of the Slavers have desolated many tracts once thickly populated. The

route over this rugged steppe is described as remarkably easy. It is not quite level; for, at the Nyassa side, it is about three thousand feet high, gradually rising until, on the ridge overlooking Tanganyika, the barometer shows an elevation of five thousand four hundred feet. Yet, throughout the whole of it there is not one difficult climb; water is plentiful, even in the dry season, and so gradual is the slope to Tanganyika that the gradient is only twenty-one hundred feet in fourteen miles. Altogether, the shortest route possible between the two lakes is 210 miles, though the line which should be taken will make the road between 230 and 250. It may be added that the country is healthy, and the natives peaceable and industrious, one of the tribes possessing considerable skill in smelting and working iron. In this region there is none of that dense jungle, the march through which formed so striking a feature of Mr. STANLEY'S latest expedition, because the Nyassa-Tanganyika plateau is too far removed from the influence of the torrents of rain precipitated from the moisture-laden breezes of the Indian Ocean. Nor is it intersected by swampy streams, and those pestilential marshes which in the tropics favour forest growth. On the contrary, the woods of the Nyassa country are rather thin and weak, the trees low, with half-grown trunks and scanty foliage, which offer no shade from the tropical sun, with few wild animals, and altogether look rather jaded and unromantic in the eyes of those familiar with the vast greeneries of South America and of India. But, on the other hand, the African fever is rarely incurred within the sylvan recesses of Nyassa, and, on the plateau at least, the heat is no greater than what our soldiers in Malta and Gibraltar have to swelter through almost any day from June to September.

CAPTAIN HORE AND THE STEVENSON ROAD.

"I SHALL not soon forget the impression created on me when I first saw the work. Coming as I did from the interior, and not unacquainted altogether with the work of pick and shovel, &c., the road appeared to me to be a most wonderful undertaking, as, indeed, it is under present conditions, and with such appliances only as are available here. It is a most interesting and valuable work, securing the admiration and respect of the natives, and exercising upon them a wonderfully civilising effect."

WHAT *The Daily Graphic* SAYS.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S dictum that between Germans and Englishmen it is always easy to come to a righteous and amicable understanding in regard to colonial matters, is scarcely borne out by facts. We have lost no campaign to the Germans, yet, in respect of territories beyond the seas, they seek to treat us as if we had. There is no use disguising the fact that the Berlin negotiations respecting Central Africa have been brought to an abrupt termination owing to the extravagant pretensions advanced on behalf of Germany. The "broad and comprehensive ignorance" of the Germans in regard to such matters has never been better displayed than in the current belief in Berlin that the Stevenson Road between Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika is a mere myth. As a matter of fact, the African Lakes Company has been in full operation for fifteen years, and the Stevenson Road was expressly constructed to establish a connection between their steamers running on Nyassa and Tanganyika. It was only the eruption of the Slave-traders within the last three years, creating what is known as the Karongas trouble, which has suspended the traffic over it. We might as well claim to have the right to appropriate territory within the recognised sphere of German influence because the German East Africa Company proved themselves incapable, as that Germany should now seek to treat British claims over the Stevenson Road as extinguished because of the hostile attitude of Arab Slave raiders.

Native African Slave-Trade.

IN our last number, under the above heading, we gave some extracts from an article written by Mr. E. J. GLAVE, descriptive of native Slavery and cannibalism on the River Congo. Since then we have had the opportunity of a conversation with an English officer who has been employed for some time officially on that river. He confirms the description given by Mr. GLAVE, who has in no way exaggerated the horrors connected with intertribal warfare. It must be remembered that the districts alluded to by Mr. GLAVE and our present informant have not been raided by Arab Slave-traders, the natives themselves being the actors in these terrible scenes.

From the description given us, it would appear that the natives on the Congo River are frequently gathered into settlements, in which each large village has a distinct existence of its own, and is more or less in a state of chronic warfare with its neighbours. When one village feels itself strong enough to attack another, a quarrel is easily picked, canoes are gathered together, alliances made with one or more other villages, and an overwhelming attack is suddenly made upon the settlement devoted to destruction. In these cases utter extirpation of the village is carried out; the people are slain right and left, and those who can be captured alive, the majority being women and children, are carried off into Slavery, and in many cases to be killed and eaten. The banana plantations belonging to the village are ruthlessly cut down, and soon nothing is left of a late flourishing village but a heap of ashes.

That cannibalism exists to a great extent is certain. Our informant states that whilst he was engaged at his ordinary occupation in a hut in one of the large villages of the Congo where he was staying, a woman Slave was killed in the next hut but one to him, and so quietly was this done that he knew nothing of it until they brought him her head and asked him to buy it. The rest of her body was carried about the village and sold just like butcher's meat.

Human life is of small value in these regions, being about the same as that of a goat. One day our informant seeing a fine goat offered to buy it, but was told that the only price that would be accepted was one of the full-grown natives accompanying him, for the purpose of being eaten. In this case the bargain did not come off.

At another time his men came upon a wretched woman Slave who had hidden herself in the forest to escape being buried with the headman who had died. The Englishman gave his men permission to smuggle her on board his launch and had the satisfaction of restoring her, a short time afterwards, to her people from whom she had been stolen, and who in gratitude presented her deliverer with a goat.

There is evidently plenty of work for those who administer the Congo Free State, in bringing the wretched natives into even the first stages of civilisation, and we were glad to find that our informant fully concurred in the remarks in the last number of the *Reporter* that it was to the missionaries we must look to raise the natives from their cannibal proclivities.

Glimpses of Missionary Life on the Upper Congo.

(FROM "REGIONS BEYOND," *June*, 1890.)

A PRIMARY step towards civilisation is made as soon as the natives become spontaneously willing to work for wages. The practice is the narrow end of a wedge that will soon penetrate far into their social life, leading to both the desire for improvement and the possibility of it, and tending, moreover, to diminish the numerous quarrels that arise as much from idleness as from anything else. ° ° °

The railway is just about to receive the reinforcement of 1,000 Zanzibaris, and 600 Sierra Leones, the engineer will therefore be able to commence making the road in good earnest, their work up to the present having been of a preliminary character. It is all but certain that the railway will run some distance up the Mpalabala Hill, which from that point will be tunnelled through.

SLAVES.

IKAU.

We also ransomed a Slave boy in this place, a nice fellow, who accompanied us quite cheerfully to the steamer, where the money for his release was paid down in brass rods and cloth.

We left Ikau on Saturday afternoon, and have spent two nights at this town of Nkasa. The people seem very poor indeed, and have hardly anything to wear, some of the women have nothing but a small leaf in front, and a string of white beads behind, though they were not lacking in tatoo decorations and heavy brass anklets. We took a walk through the town yesterday, escorted by one of the chiefs. The houses were miserable little huts, some of them not nearly so good as our goat-house, though some of them were splendidly floored.

Here we have seen very light skinned natives, some quite like half-cast people.

On our return to the steamer, we were standing by the stove, when our attention was arrested by the boys eating *shrimps*, familiar fresh shrimps; the sight was a surprising one, but we learn now that they are caught in great numbers on this river. We had expected to be on our way long before this, but a very unlooked-for and unpleasant palaver detains us. Early this morning the discovery was made that our ransomed boy had either departed of his own free will, or been taken off by the natives. Thereupon ensued a great palaver; the people were dreadfully afraid, the women and children rushed off to the bush, and the men armed with spears and shields stood ready for an attack. We remained silent and refused to sell more cloth until the palaver was finished. One man from Lolongo was among the crowd, and he settled matters by telling the affrighted natives that we should do something terrible unless reparation was made, so they agreed to bring us three Slaves for the one who had been stolen. He was a fine big fellow, able to do a man's work, and we did not expect to get another like *him*, but if you could only *see* the poor little morsels of humanity they are bringing us! The first, a child about seven years old, looks as if she had not eaten anything for several days. I can see nearly every bone in her body, and every beat of her little heart is distinctly visible. "They give me no food," she said, when she heard us remarking on her starved appearance, and she set to work on some stale kwanga with great zest. Poor little dear! her clothing is conspicuous by its absence, its place is supplied by two small leaves. Number two is in somewhat better condition, except in the matter of clothing, and we are now waiting for the third child, who has to be fetched from another town. ° ° °

THE CONGO FOREST.

AT Nkasa, one of the towns, were forests of plantains and bananas ; we have never seen the same number in any place. We halted to cut wood in a great forest swamp. I went on shore for a few minutes, but found the ground and atmosphere so damp that I quickly retreated. It was a wonderful place, dark, gloomy, and silent. Overhead luxuriant creepers, interlaced with the giant branches of the trees, almost shut out the sky, and under our feet was layer upon layer of dead leaves and decaying vegetation, giving forth an unwholesome smell. The trees grew to the height of seventy or eighty feet. As I truly remarked, one felt very small in the midst of such grandeur and solitude. How infinitely above all skill of man is nature's handiwork. But, in spite of its beauty, one was conscious of a sense of oppression in those quiet lovely shades. Dark, dark and dreary, and in some ways dangerous. No sun, and consequently no light. Life there was, but decaying, unwholesome life. And one could not but compare the hearts and lives of these people to their own forests—no light, no sunshine. O for the time when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise in their hearts and minds ! What a transformation there will be. ° ° °

DIFFICULTIES.

LIZARDS and frogs abound in our house, and at night it is overrun by rats. These are comparatively harmless animals, though the rats do destroy every piece of cloth they can find ; but we have other and more dangerous visitants. Now and then a snake is discovered, and then there is a great struggle between the men and boys to be the first to kill it. We are rather troubled by eagles, which hover about continually in the near neighbourhood of our fowls and goats. Great consternation prevails, and has prevailed for some days, in the native mind on account of a leopard, who is prowling about in our vicinity ; he has attacked several men and women during the past week, some in broad daylight. He passed through our station two nights ago, but did no harm. Happily for them, the men have great faith in the white man and his gun, and for ourselves we fear nothing, but rest on the assurance given in Psalm cxxv. 2. ° ° °

Our brethren write cheerfully, though Mr. WHYTOCK has been suffering from fever. They have had a few mishaps, but nothing serious. The report on the whole was a favourable one. A great difficulty will be surmounted if we are able to employ natives as letter-carriers. Slave canoes frequently pass up and down, the boat which brought our letters contained no fewer than thirty poor Slaves, taken from their own people and country to be sold at Bangala.

The difficulty of teaching people who have no ideas of spiritual things is great. Not only does his own lack of words hinder the teacher, but the people's lack of the most rudimentary conceptions of true religion.

SOUTH AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

MONDAY, March 3rd, 1890.

SLAVERY IN SWAZILAND.—A correspondent of a South African newspaper states that while travelling recently in the vicinity of Delagoa Bay, he heard that there was a camp where white men sold Kaffirs. He proceeded immediately with a friend and a trusty native boy to those parts. Arrived at the Lebombo, he easily found the camp, and succeeded in overcoming the suspicions of the Slave-dealers by making them believe that he wished to purchase a few Kaffirs. He was allowed to see several youths and girls, the first-named costing £8, and the latter £15. While he was in camp someone else came there, who bought a Kaffir boy for £8.—*Daily Chronicle*.

Capital and Labour for the West Indies.

(BY MR. HENRY FOWLER, COLONIAL SECRETARY OF TRINIDAD.)

AN interesting and valuable paper on this important subject was read by Mr. FOWLER before the ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE, on 10th June, and as it is a question on which we have often had something to say, we give extracts from this article, the reading of which provoked considerable discussion. The ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY has always protested against the introduction of foreign or coolie labour at the expense of the Colony in general, seeing that such labour is for the benefit of special interests.

With regard to the small number of coolies who return to their homes after expiry of their term of service, this is a fact long known to us, and we should have been glad if Mr. FOWLER's paper had furnished a few facts as to the mortality of the coolies, and as to the numbers who renewed their contracts, or settled, as tradesmen or otherwise, in their new home—only fifty thousand returned to their country out of two hundred and eighty thousand imported—is a matter that ought to be very thoroughly investigated.

MR. FOWLER'S PAPER.

When asked to prepare a paper on the West Indies generally, I only ventured to undertake the task because it seemed ungenerous not to be ready to champion the cause of those beautiful islands, whose turn had come round to be discussed at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute.

It seemed obvious that such a group of Colonies must necessarily be of great interest to many in this country on account of the important questions that have been associated with their history, as well as to those who may be more immediately connected with them by business or other ties.

Various papers have been read during the past few years relating to the West Indies, but they have, as a rule, dealt with some particular subject or individual Colony, hence the suggestion that they might be dealt with generally. The questions of capital and labour are common to them all, and these two subjects are mentioned in the title of the paper, for they constitute the practical as well as burning considerations of the hour. They will be chiefly referred to amongst others relating to those Colonies.

Now, whilst there are many here present to-night who are familiar with the extent and resources of the individual islands with which they may be connected, it is doubtful if all realise what the West Indies mean or represent as a whole. The Colonies of British Guiana and British Honduras are included in the group for the purposes of this paper, as they have been invariably associated with the West Indies—so much so that in times gone by some of her Majesty's Ministers have been misled to speak of those Colonies as islands. If there is one point that an Englishman might be expected to be well up in it is geography, and yet it is a lamentable fact that there are very few who know where all their various possessions are situated, and the large majority have generally to search an atlas if they want to know where to find some particular Colony. It is satisfactory to observe that the second volume of a series of works on the history

and geography of the Colonies, from the pen of the Rev. WILLIAM GRESSWELL, has just been published, under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, the opening volume, by Mr. C. WASHINGTON EVES, which was devoted to the West Indies, having appeared a few months ago. British Guiana and British Honduras are parts of the great American continent, and some of the inhabitants are perhaps not so proud of the association of those Colonies with the West Indies as they might be. * * *

AREA.

The West Indies thus defined represent an area of 128,737 square miles, and, according to the census of 1881, a population of one and a-half million, which it is estimated has increased over 100,000 since that date. The imports reach a value of over seven and a-half millions, and exports nearly eight a-half millions. Now these figures bear favourable comparison with those for New Zealand, or the Cape, or Queensland, as may be seen by the following table :—

Areas.				
	Square Miles.	Population.	Imports.	Exports.
West Indies ...	128,727	1,632,912	7,529,256	8,406,376
New Zealand ...	104,235	649,349	5,941,900	7,767,325
The Cape	213,917	1,428,729	5,678,337	8,876,657
Queensland ...	668,497	387,463	6,646,738	6,126,362

The figures indicate to you that the West Indies, as a whole, are of equal trading importance to either of those great Colonies, and that the interests at stake, when speaking of the West Indies, are very large. Some of the islands are amongst the oldest Colonies of the Empire, and have been occupied over two centuries. When first discovered, they were inhabited by Caribs, or Indians; then by Europeans, who imported Africans, and subsequently Asiatics. It is a sad reflection to dwell upon that so few traces remain of the original inhabitants, who were found revelling in all the luxuries of those lovely islands. The race has died out within three centuries, except a few representatives to be found scattered amongst the islands, who would not probably be recognised by their ancestors as genuine descendants of their race. * * *

It will be observed that the area is an extensive one. The soil is more or less fertile throughout the islands, and there is much land awaiting cultivation. The climate is tropical, which, it is considered, renders the islands generally unsuitable for European settlement.

The population is mixed, consisting of Europeans, Africans, and Asiatics. Since the abolition of Slavery there have been imported into the West Indies some 35,000 liberated Africans, 280,000 East Indians, 17,000 Chinamen, and some 35,000 Portuguese from the Azores, or Western Isles.

The Europeans have been gradually decreasing. The East Indians are increased by annual importations beyond the natural growth common to the others, and in excess of those returning to India.

The island of Jamaica may be taken as an illustration of the changes that have taken place in the character of the population. I have ascertained that in 1658 there were in that Colony 4,500 Europeans to 1,500 Africans. In 1800 the numbers were 30,000 Europeans and 300,000 Africans. In the last census the figures were 14,433 Europeans, 109,946 coloured, 444,186 Africans, and 12,240 Asiatics. Barbados may also be cited as an example. In 1676 the Europeans numbered

22,000 to 32,000 Africans, whilst in the census of 1871, 16,560 were enumerated as Europeans, and 162,042 were returned as coloured, or Africans. For these figures I am indebted to the second volume of Mr. C. P. LUCAS' "Historical Geography of the British Colonies," which is in course of publication.

SLAVERY.

The cause for the decrease of the European element was not so much due to climatic influences as to the accursed system of Slavery that was introduced into the islands, when a free European labourer could not compete against an acclimatised Slave. When this system was abolished, cheap labour was deemed necessary to continue the cultivation of the main industry of those Colonies, and India was found to be the best place from which to obtain such a supply. Labourers were obtained with the provision for their return passage, the supposition being that they would all wish to return to their own country. The result, however, has been that up to the present time out of 279,552 who have been imported, only 50,143 have returned. If those islands, which have been won by Englishmen either by the spirit of adventure or at the cost of blood and treasure, are adapted for European settlement, it seems hard that they should not be open to them equally with the African and Asiatic, and means be found to assist them in getting there, as in the case of the others. There seems no reason why Englishmen should not be able to settle in the West Indies, unless they have degenerated. This may be thought to be the case by some, since we have to go abroad for a "STANLEY" now to open up new countries. It is some consolation, however, to know that he was a Welshman, if not an Englishman, once, and that his exploits were shared by Englishmen. Unfortunately, this does not appear to be the only sign of the "handwriting on the wall," for the majority of legislators of the Empire would probably accept with approval the idea that Englishmen at the present time are not prepared to incur expenses or assume responsibilities the extent and end of which cannot be gauged. This has the ring of "metal," and of "expediency," which is characteristic of the nineteenth century, rather than the spirit of enterprise and venture of the sixteenth. It may be that the Empire is gorged, and should be federated first; but, unless we go on, it seems we must go back, for it is clearly impossible to stand still in these days. o o o

Mr. FOWLER here entered elaborately into the question of the suitability of the West Indies for European emigrants and settlers, and spoke highly of this large field for the transfer of some of the youthful energy of "younger sons" and others who are not able to find elbow-room at home. There are the difficulties always presented by a tropical climate, and these cannot be entirely overcome by men of northern blood. The same difficulty will prevent the large army of European settlers from squatting on the banks of the Congo, and in the Aruwimi forests, as appears to be thought probable by some enthusiastic persons at the present time.

CAPITAL.

As regards the question of capital for the West Indies, I regret to find those Colonies are not regarded with much enthusiasm in the financial circles of this great city at the present time; and it seems very difficult to get capitalists to take up any

scheme connected with them. I fancy the West Indies are looked upon as the private preserves of a few, and that there is not much for outsiders to get out of them.

The reasons are obvious. The West Indies have not very numerous business connections, and they have always been chiefly associated with one idea, viz., sugar. We all know the crisis through which this product has had to pass, and the uncertainty existing as to the ultimate result of the competition between the cane and the beet. That the crisis is past, there is every reason to hope, for, with economical management and improved appliances, it is stated than vacuum-pan sugar can be produced, under favourable circumstances, at a cost of 10s. 9d. per cwt., whereas the average first cost of the production of granulated German sugar is 12s. 6d. This fact is referred to in *The Produce Markets Review*, of April 26th last, when commenting upon the meeting of the Colonial Company, "one of the greatest industrial concerns connected with sugar," whose head office is in London, and whose operations are carried on in British Guiana and the principal islands of the West Indies. The chairman of that company also pointed out that the net profit of the company for last year, of £71,945 12s. 4d., was due to increase in production and decrease in cost, as well as to better prices—the cost of production having been reduced from £20 6s. 9d. per ton, in 1877, to £13 13s. 1d., in 1889. Mr. ROBERT GILLESPIE expressed the hope of getting the cost down another £1 or 30s. more. ° ° °

SUGAR.

It seems clear that there is a considerable field for the investment of capital in the West Indies. The sugar industry, which is the main one in the West Indies generally, as pointed out in the pamphlet of "General Information for Intending Settlers in the West Indies," issued from the Colonial Office, "requires for its cultivation capital, local experience, and coloured labour." The advantages and benefits achieved by the Colonial Company are undoubtedly owing, says its chairman, to the improved machinery and other improvements made and carried out on the estates; and though these have cost the company a very large sum, had they not have been effected, costly as they were, the company would not be in the position of showing anything approximating to the result that has been arrived at. Now I have learnt that some £300,000 have been expended in connection with only one of the company's estates for plant, railways, and other improvements, and this estate manufactures sugar from about 4,000 acres of cane. I refer to the Usine St. Madelaine in Trinidad. This gives an idea of the capital required to develop the sugar-cane industry, so as to enable it to compete successfully with the beet root. It is either the larger concerns that can be worked profitably, or the smaller ones that may be unburdened with past debts, and are worked by their owners. The old days, when a sugar estate of 300 or 400 acres used to keep going three carriages and pairs—one for the proprietor, one for the merchant, and one for the attorney—are, I fear, past, and it is doubtful if even the attorney has been able to keep one going during the last few years; for, I fancy, it may safely be surmised that his would be the last one to be given up. ° ° °

OTHER PRODUCTS.

Capitalists may be further assured by the fact that success has attended the cultivation of other products besides sugar in the West Indies. For proofs of this it is only necessary to refer to the Colonies of Jamaica and British Honduras, which have developed a fruit trade in a few years from nothing to the extent of an annually

increasing export valued, in 1888, at £340,000, in the case of Jamaica, and 210,000 dols. in Honduras, whilst at Trinidad it is estimated there is more land under cocoa than sugar cultivation; and Grenada almost entirely depends upon subsidiary products. The fibre industry is being fast developed in the Bahamas, and so are the minor industries in Trinidad under the persevering and fostering efforts of Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, the present Governor. It may be as well also for capitalists to bear in mind that the West Indies are not purely an agricultural country, and therefore to be regarded as a poor one; but there are minor manufacturing industries as well as minor products flourishing in some of the islands. It may not be generally known that all the genuine Angostura bitters are manufactured in Trinidad, that Montserrat supplies real lime juice, and Jamaica as good cigars as Havanna, that carriage and match factories have been established where due protection has been afforded. Wherever capital or labour is available these smaller industries can be carried on; therefore, if these are forthcoming, there are many more industries that could be started.

For instance, it would be far more merciful, if turtle cannot be conveyed to Europe with less cruelty, to kill and can them on the spot; and if there is any officer in this room belonging to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, I am in hope he may induce the Society to take up the case of those poor creatures, whose sufferings aboard ship are sickening to behold. * * *

LABOUR.

I now come to the question of labour, the facts connected with which are very simple. Land in the West Indies is chiefly cultivated by manual labour; there is some ploughing done, but it represents a very small fraction of the work on an estate. It is estimated that a sugar estate is all the better managed where labourers can be employed at the rate of one for every acre. The percentage varies in the several Colonies, as well as the cultivation. In some the cultivation is equal to that of gardening in this country, and in others it is of a very perfunctory character. The yield of sugar also varies, naturally depending upon circumstances, and ranges from one to three tons per acre, a fair average being one and a-half or two tons. Various attempts have been made to cultivate the land by the ordinary agricultural appliances, worked by draught or steam power, but they have not proved satisfactory. Manual labour is deemed essential to the due cultivation of land in the Tropics, and it is said it should be cheap and acclimatised. But I am not yet convinced that more intelligent labour and machinery might not accomplish as much, if not more, than the present system. The position of the labourer in the West Indies is very different to anything existing in this country. Here he has to work regularly, and finds it hard to gain a living. In the West Indies he need only work three or four days a week, has no difficulty in getting land to settle on if he prefers it, and can go into the woods and shoot what game he can for a meal, or catch what fish he may be able to in the sea. He is seldom hungry, and is generally a happy and contented being. It is true that wages may be low in the West Indies; they range from 10d. a day to 2s. 6d. for agricultural labour, and from 3s. to 8s. for artisans or for mechanical labour of the rudest description. But it must be remembered that there is seldom any rent to pay, and clothing, fuel and light are scarcely needed, whilst the actual necessary food is not dearer than in England. The indentured immigrant does not average more than 200 days' work in a year, not because he

cannot have it, but because he does not care to work more. It seems clear that it was never intended by Providence that people should be required to work so hard in those climates as in countries where there is a long bleak winter to provide against.

Compare this amount of labour with that of the poor "sweater" at home, and compare the prospects of the so-called semi-Slaves of the West Indies with those of the garret or the "Hodges" in this country. The labourer in the West Indies has his five or ten acres within measurable reach of him at any time, if he is industrious enough to secure it, and has the chance of settling down as a tenant or as a peasant proprietor whenever he chooses; for Crown lands are open to him, or he can trade, and need seldom be out of employment. The labourer here thinks himself lucky if he can always secure employment, and is ready to work his 300 days in a year, and would hail with delight a working day of only eight hours, and the prospect of three acres and a cow is much farther off here. Besides, when a labourer has secured these, he cannot make so much out of them as a labourer in the West Indies can make out of his allotment.

With such facilities for gaining a livelihood with the minimum of work, it has always been found difficult to secure a steady supply of labour, which is necessary for the successful cultivation of most agricultural products, but especially requisite in the case of sugar.

INDIAN COOLIES.

This supply is kept up in some of the West Indian Colonies by fresh importation from India, as the labourers who do not return become absorbed in the general industries of the Colony. And it is for those who object to the system to devise a better one. The only point in it that seems to me open to discussion is whether, from the fact of the large majority of those immigrants remaining permanently in the West Indies, instead of returning to India, as contemplated, any particular class should be called upon to pay for the cost of the importation of those who elect to become settlers. The arrangements have clearly been made on the basis that the importation of labourers was solely for the benefit of the sugar interests, and not with the idea that they would become settlers; hence, sugar was properly charged with the cost, roughly averaging some £25 a-head. The indirect benefit, however, that this importation conferred, soon became recognised, and contributions from public funds, to the extent of one-third of the cost, have lately been authorised, and some of the burden has been distributed over other industries. The labourers are all the better for their period of indenture, for at the end of it they have become thoroughly acclimatised and experienced workmen, and therefore become the best of settlers. They are generally, too, industrious and thrifty. On looking over the earlier colonisation circulars, it may be noticed that such sums as £951,241 have been expended by a single Australian Colony during a few years on immigration. The number of persons thus introduced at the public expense is returned at 51,736, which gives an expenditure of over £18 a-head. It does not appear that any particular class or industry was called upon to pay this cost. The proceeds of the sales of the Crown lands, to the extent of 87 per cent., were appropriated for the purposes of immigration in the earlier history of some of our most advanced Colonies. If the coolies imported into the West Indies were mere labourers, and left the Colony after their period of service expired, the cost of importation would be rightly chargeable to their employers; but, when it is an ascertained fact that less than one-fourth of them do return to India, the

question has been raised whether the first employers should not be charged one-fourth of the cost only, in lieu of the two-thirds; for it is contended that to insist upon more is handicapping the principal industry in the West Indies with a special tax at a time when it has to compete against a bounty-fed rival. But it can hardly be expected that any change will be made so long as the question of return passages remains in its present unsettled state, involving as it does such an indefinite liability. It has also been alleged that, if the coolie is a costly introduction to a Colony, he is a good tax-payer. In spite, however, of the uneven contest that has to be carried on between sugar cane and beet, capitalists are now in a position to satisfy themselves that the cane can hold its own, with only one "if," or proviso, viz., that the industry is well handled. ° ° °

SUMMARY.

In concluding this paper the various points in it may be briefly summed up as follows :—

(1) The West Indies afford a very fair field for the investment of capital, provided the difference between the rates of interest can be made to cover the cost of management.

(2) The sugar industry can be successfully maintained if sufficient capital and labour are available.

(3) Other products are being cultivated with success, and minor manufactures and industries can be increased and extended with advantage.

(4) The importation of labour should be continued where it is required as at present, so that there may be labourers to take the place of those who become absorbed in the general population, or who return to India after their period of indenture.

(5) The organisation of European immigration on a practical and suitable basis, remembering that half the quantity of land that is necessary in colder climates suffices for a settler in the tropics. The establishment also of a cheap system of assisted passages between the islands to facilitate transfer from one to the other, and the usual arrangements of depôts, agencies, &c., that may be required for the use of the immigrants.

(6) The provision of speedy steam communication between the islands, as well as between them and Canada and the United States, so as to make the markets of those countries available for the products of the West Indies.

(7) The completion of the process of Federation until all the Colonies are united, with one legislature; and local councils, where desirable, to deal with purely local matters.

It has frequently been brought to my notice that it is highly desirable that some well-defined policy should be laid down and generally made known, in place of the "drift" which it is alleged exists. I have been assured that confidence would be inspired amongst all parties interested in the West Indies, especially capitalists, if it were understood that a certain programme would be carried out, and all were harmoniously working towards the same end.

The last idea that I venture to place before you is that, apart from the general value of the West Indies to the Mother Country, they have recently awakened special interest from the fact that they furnish a large proportion of the rum that yields so good a revenue to the Imperial Treasury. I had the curiosity to taste one of those

gills referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recent speech on the Budget, and I could only wonder what was the use of the Adulteration Acts. . . .

Finally, I desire to state—in case any impression to the contrary may arise in view of the office which I happen to hold—that this paper bears no official imprimatur of any kind, but has been prepared by me as a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, who feels a deep interest in the welfare and development of those beautiful and interesting islands, the charm of which has been abundantly recognised by all who have been privileged to visit them.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVE DHOW.

MR. A. B. WYLDE, corresponding member of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, sends to that organisation the following particulars from Suakim respecting the capture of Slaves near that port in April last :—"On my return from Trinkitat I was not forty-eight hours here before I went away in H.M.S. *Fearless* to catch a batch of Slaves on the coast of Brassy, south of Aghig. We cruised off Brassy and stood in in the morning, and as in the *Fearless* we have a flyer, a sixteen-knot boat when pressed, no dhow, when the track is known, can get away from her. I had the satisfaction of seeing my information again verified, and a capture of 131 Slaves made in a boat which was nominally under the Italian flag, but with Suakim papers."

SIERRA LEONE.

A writer in the *Sierra Leone Weekly News* remarks that the future welfare of that Colony depends upon, in the first place, compulsory education, and in the second, enlargement of the area of the Colony. "If," he says, "education is a law of the land, all foreigners must be bound by it, otherwise their increasing population will drown the Colony in a whirlpool of heathenism and superstition. What makes us inferior to other civilised people? Why, the continuous contact with heathens has always retarded the progress of the Colony. We cannot maintain a decent newspaper in the Colony, we cannot print cheap books, and all because the reading population is so small. We once had a flourishing rural population; then something could be got out of our soil; but, alas! the soil is getting poorer. But with an enlarged area of the Colony the rural population will spring again into existence, and the over-abundant emigration which deprives the Colony of men will to some extent cease. The best thing that can be done will be to declare all the protected countries included within the Colony; and then our men can carry on agriculture under better conditions and in better soil."

MAURITIUS.

In a recent report to the Colonial Office, Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY expresses the opinion that Mauritius is the most flourishing sugar-producing Colony in the British Empire. This is partly, he thinks, owing to the Indian and Australian markets which the Mauritius planters enjoy, and which are too remote from the West India Islands. It is also probably due to the greater facility the producers in Mauritius have in obtaining coolie labour in India. But the chief difference between Mauritius and the West India Islands is that nearly all the owners of the sugar estates and all the managers of the estates in the former are natives of the island. Absenteeism prevails much more in the West Indies than in Mauritius. The great fall of recent years in the price of sugar has been met by the Mauritius planter to some extent by prudently reducing his establishment expenses, and also by endeavouring to increase the quantity of sugar obtained from the cane. The latter object is now being successfully carried out by the diffusion system.

PARLIAMENTARY.

(Continued.)

THE QUESTION OF SLAVE LABOUR.

In Committee of Supply (East African Vote.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS, June 6th.

MR. ALFRED E. PEASE said: Allegations have been made in letters which have appeared in the columns of *The Times* that there have been a large export of labourers from Zanzibar, many of whom are undoubtedly Slaves, and I think that if the Right Hon. Gentleman will make enquiries on the subject he will find that these allegations are true. Several vessels have lately left Zanzibar for the Congo with labourers, amongst whom are numbers of Slaves, who, for a consideration paid to them, have been placed on board these vessels and exported to the Congo State to make the railways there. I understand that not long ago a German vessel left Zanzibar with a mixed cargo, and with hundreds of these men on board. An English commander on the station had the vessel searched, and found amongst the Slaves two or three who admitted they were going unwillingly. He took them off and landed them at Zanzibar, and allowed the vessel to proceed on its voyage. I believe the officer was reprimanded for not having seized the vessel as a Slave prize. Whether the accusations against the Congo contracts are true or not I would urge on the Government that they should seize the opportunity whilst the Conference of Brussels is still sitting to bring this question before the Conference and request that it may be thoroughly investigated. On a former occasion when I discussed this question in the House I seemed to have been misunderstood, both in the House and by the public outside. I was supposed to have made some remarks reflecting on the British East Africa Company; and I wish to say that I believe that Company have pursued the best policy with regard to Slavery that an enterprising company could pursue in Africa. I put them in a very different category from the Congo State on the question of labour.

SIR J. FERGUSSON: I am sure the last thing in my mind is to complain of the way in which these various matters that have attracted great attention in the country have been treated. It would have, indeed, been surprising if no reference had been made to them in the House on this occasion. Indeed, the Government have much reason to appreciate the absence of embarrassing interference on the part of the House of Commons, when it is known that Her Majesty's Government are deeply interested in safeguarding the interests of the country by negotiations with foreign Powers. To the questions that have been asked with regard to the position of our affairs in various parts of the world I shall endeavour to give sufficient replies. * * * On the subject of Slavery in East Africa, and especially within the sphere of influence of the East Africa Company, he must refer Hon. Members to an answer given by him on May 15, when he said "Her Majesty's Government are informed that the British East Africa Company have approved of a proclamation issued by their Administrator in Zanzibar, with the assent of the chiefs and the peoples concerned, decreeing immunity from Slavery within a certain area in the Company's territory, and beyond the ten mile limit. It is understood that the proclamation does not affect the status of Slavery as at present existing." It should be observed that we had not acquired territory at present, and that we were only carrying on a system of trade under engagements with the tribes. It was only in the seaport towns that actual administration was at present possible. We could not change the whole domestic institutions of the region between the sea and the great lakes by a stroke of the pen. We must move by cautious steps, endeavouring

to introduce free labour in the place of Slavery, to redeem as many Slaves as possible from servitude, and to wean the people to better courses. The East Africa Company had already been instrumental in freeing thousands of Slaves. In this connexion he might explain a point which had been misunderstood. Certain Slaves having taken refuge from their masters within the area of the Company's influence, the Company advanced money to enable them to redeem themselves. The Company then allowed them to work out the money advanced on easy terms, but their freedom had already been secured, and many of them repaid the debt by work in three or four months' time. With respect to the coolies engaged for labour on the Congo, he had to say that all persons connected with the East Africa Company were careful not to make any bargains with Slave-owners. The bargains were made with the Slaves themselves, who had the right to make such engagements, the arrangement being, he believed, that they paid half the wages they earned to their owners. He trusted that whilst we were connected with East Africa free labour would more and more take the place of Slave labour, until finally the latter should be a thing of the past.

The answer given by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in reply to Mr. PEASE's speech, dwells almost entirely upon matters within the "*Sphere of Influence of the East Africa Company*," which, as we understand Mr. PEASE's speech, he was not discussing; indeed, he states that he "believes that Company have pursued the best policy with regard to Slavery that an enterprising company could pursue in Africa." He then stated that he "put them in a very different category from the Congo State on the question of labour." In the only allusion by Sir JAMES FERGUSSON to what he calls "Coolies engaged for labour on the Congo," he speaks as though persons engaging them were connected with the East Africa Company, which we do not suppose to be the case. The question of engaging such labour for the Congo, whether the bargains are made with the Slaves themselves, or with their masters, will have to be put upon a footing satisfactory to the Powers who signed the General Act at the Conference of Berlin, where it is stated, in Article 9, that "Each of the Powers binds itself to employ all the means at its disposal for putting an end to this trade (Slave-trade), and for punishing those who engage in it." The ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY feels strongly that where Slave-owners receive large advances for the prospective labour of their Slaves this money will, without doubt, be employed for the purchase of fresh Slaves, to be hired out in a similar manner; and if this is not the Slave-trade it is difficult to know what to call it.

Believing that this subject ought to be thoroughly discussed by the Anti-Slave Trade Conference still sitting at Brussels, the Committee of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY has addressed the following letter to BARON LAMBERMONT, the President, and has forwarded copies to LORD SALISBURY, Her Majesty's Foreign Secretary, and to LORD VIVIAN and SIR JOHN KIRK, Plenipotentiaries representing England at the Conference:—

EMPLOYMENT OF SLAVES AS LABOURERS ON THE CONGO.

TO MONSIEUR LE BARON LAMBERMONT, PRESIDENT OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY
CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS.

June 10, 1890.

SIR,—The BRITISH & FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY beg to call your attention to the manner in which labour is obtained from Slave-holders in Zanzibar and adjoining territories for service in the Congo Free State. According to advices received, it appears to be the practice to hire Slaves from their owners for a certain fixed time, and at a specified rate of wages. A considerable portion of the men's wages is said to be paid in advance to their owners, and it is stated that the sum is more than sufficient to enable the owners to replace them by fresh Slaves.

Whether these men proceed to their destination of their own free will, or are forced to go, this Society maintains that in either case this method of obtaining labour is nothing more nor less than a form of the Slave-trade, and ought to come before the notice of the Conference still sitting at Brussels.

We believe that any vessel carrying Slaves against whose labour advances have been made to their owners, whether the men have been shipped willingly or otherwise, are liable to capture and condemnation as Slavers.

This Society, therefore, would respectfully, but earnestly, ask you to bring this subject before the Conference in order that some definite action may be taken to prevent the carrying on of a system of obtaining labour which, under whatever name it may be designated, is really the Slave-trade.

We believe that if this matter were brought before the notice of the enlightened Monarch who has invited an Anti-Slavery Conference to meet in his capital, he would, in his capacity as sovereign of the Congo State, take immediate steps to put an end to a system which tends to encourage the Slave-trade.

We have the honour to subscribe ourselves,

On behalf of the Committee.

EDMUND STURGE, *Chairman.*

JOSEPH ALLEN, *Treasurer.*

W. H. WYLDE.

HORACE WALLER.

CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

CARDINAL MANNING.

OUR readers will not forget that CARDINAL MANNING, who has just celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopate, and is now in his eighty-third year, has for many years been a Member of the Committee of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY. On May 2nd HIS EMINENCE attended the monthly meeting of that Committee, and took part in its proceedings. We heartily congratulate the good Cardinal upon his activity of mind and body, and trust that he may yet be spared for several years to assist in the many philanthropic works in which he is so warmly interested.

The Madras Slave-Trade.

IN the last number of the *Reporter* (page 45) we printed a question asked in the House of Commons on this subject, together with Sir J. GORST's answer. We now give some further particulars as to the continuance of the Slave-trade in young girls, carried on between British India and British Burmah. *The Madras Times*, of May 5th, writes as follows :—

We shall not be accused of whipping a dead horse because we feel it our duty to return to this uncanny subject. The question which was addressed to the Secretary of State for India, with reference to the case alluded to in our columns on March 5th, was both promptly and satisfactorily answered by Sir J. GORST, who showed that the offender, in that instance, had been convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for a term of seven years ; but more recent statements are in circulation, showing that the nefarious traffic is being persistently carried on. The last week in April brought us further evidence that the Slave dealers, on both sides of the water, are putting forth considerable activity, and are, in fact, driving a brisk trade. Public Slave auctions will scarcely prove expedient after what has recently occurred at Westminster ; but there can be no doubt that the importation and selling of girls at prices ranging from six to ten pounds sterling goes on systematically. The information to hand is ghastly enough ; but, in some respects, it is irritatingly incomplete. We should like to know something of the gentlemen to whom these contraband goods are consigned, and of the connoisseurs who, with such delicacy and refinement, buy up the article the moment it is exposed for sale. Our contemporary would evoke considerable interest by the publication of these gentlemen's names. The details to hand are too meagre. Yet they are sufficient to show that much more is known than has appeared. It must have been within a week almost of Mr. McLAREN's inquiry that a very young Madrassee girl complained to the Assistant-Magistrate that two men, VENKIAH and BUTCHEMA, had imported her from Madras, on the representation that she was to be respectably married in Rangoon. That was her statement. Instead of which, she had not been two days in the city, when she was sold for Rs.100. But she had managed to effect her escape, and now desired protection. This is one case. The same paper, in a subsequent issue, again reports among other items of local interest "Four more victims of the Madras Slave-trade were found locked up in a house in 28th Street." They stated that "an agent in Cocanada had shipped them, paid their passage, and had given them the sum of Rs.3 on the faith of their proceeding to the house of a man who would meet them on their arrival, and find them husbands."

Our contemporary informs us that the District-Superintendent of Police has communicated with Colonel WELDON, of Madras, with a view to obtaining the necessary information to secure a conviction of the persons concerned in the matter. We shall look with some interest for the sequel. It is a matter which must not be hushed up. If the authorities wink at the nasty business, or attempt to suppress it on any consideration whatever, rather than expose the remissness of certain officials who should have been more on the alert, they must expect the wholesale condemnation which, sooner or later, will find them out. Men have a perverse habit of flying in the face of history on this question. Since the days of WILBERFORCE, and GRENVILLE, and FOX, and CLARKSON, there has been in the British Houses of Parliament no mercy for the man who captured, or bought, or sold, or owned a Slave.

Reviews.

STRUGGLES IN AFRICA.

(TRANSPORTING A STEAMER 1,600 MILES OVERLAND.)

THE writer of this pamphlet, Mr. JOHN THORBURN, has accomplished a remarkable feat by transporting overland from Port Elizabeth (Algoa Bay) to Kimberley, and thence through Swazieland to Delagoa Bay, on a bullock truck, a small steam launch, thirty-seven feet long. The description of this adventurous journey, fraught with so many difficulties, is very entertaining, though the writer disclaims any attempt at fine writing.

Mr. THORBURN is perhaps better known as the *Swazieland Concessionnaire*, though there is not very much to show us how far he has been successful in making a fortune there. The KING UMBANDINE died during Mr. THORBURN's visit to Swazieland, and the Government of that country is now administered by his widow on behalf of their son. His description of the Queen will be found interesting :—

USIBATI, THE QUEEN REGENT.

The King being dead, and BOON, the successor to the throne, being but a lad fourteen or fifteen years of age, the kingdom is now governed by USIBATI, the Regent Queen, and the late King's counsellors.

USIBATI, the Queen Regent, is enormously stout, but her face shows force and intelligence. Her dress consists of a collection of old bucks' skins, at her side slung an ivory snuff-box, to which she had incessant recourse during the conference.

USIBATI, the Queen Regent, is *not* the mother of the present young King, but *one* of the wives of the old King UMSWAZIE, and one of the grandmothers of the present King, being no blood relative.

But UMBUNU's (the present young King) mother is still living at the King's Kraal, Embekelweni.

In accordance with the custom of the Swazie Royalty, and as a sign of exemption from any kind of labour, the Queen grows her nails, both of the hands and of the feet, to an extreme length ; the finger-nails, in fact, come in useful as snuff spoons.

This lady, in spite of her comfortable proportions, and of her good-natured face, has a love for the old Swazie custom of "killing off."

Sir F. DE WINTON, as spokesman of a Commission, expressed to her their hope that this barbarism would now be done away with, and that no one in the future would be killed without fair trial ; but, in defence of her hobby, the Queen spoke up and became quite eloquent.

"Killing off," she explained, was always practised after the death of a King, when the nation was mourning for him, and for this reason :—It was not right that the people should in any way *pretend* to mourn, and yet there were many who had perhaps never seen the King, and who, at any rate, were not on sufficiently intimate terms really to weep at his death ; consequently it was as usual to kill off one or two of the relations of such people, and then at once their weeping became sincere. As for fair trial, the people got that, for whenever it was considered desirable that a man or two should be killed, the whole village is turned out and made to sit around in a circle, the witch-doctor then goes round and points out those that are to die.

What, she would like to know, could be fairer than that ?

And, she added, at any rate she hoped that Sir FRANCIS would allow the custom to be followed for this once, as she had a few individuals "on her list, who would never be missed." And the pleading smile with which she made the request would have melted a heart of stone.

Whether this pamphlet is put forth in the interests of *concessionnaires* we have no means of knowing, nor does it appear quite clear for what purpose Mr. THORBURN took so much trouble to carry his steamer through Swazieland, though we presume that he expects to make good profit by carrying freight on the Pembe River, in Portuguese territory, in which we heartily wish him success.

His description of the Lord High Executioner of Swazieland is somewhat startling.

THE LORD HIGH EXECUTIONER.

Among the public functionaries of the Swazie nation is one whom we might call the Lord High Executioner, and the office is by no means the sinecure that many Court appointments are. JOKILIBOVO (the "Red Warrior"), the official in question, is a fine, strongly-built warrior of a light copper colour, splendid limbs and muscle, and cheerful face; there is nothing in his appearance to provoke any feeling of loathing—on the contrary, he appears to be a most popular man among the people, in spite of the fact that he has probably been the means of bringing mourning upon most of their families. Still, they bear him no grudge, or if they do, they guard against any display of it, which perhaps is natural, when they reflect it may be their own turn any day to be handed over to his tender mercies, when they may have a more unpleasant time of it if they happen not to be on good terms with him.

The crime need not be a very great one to bring a man within JOKILIBOVO's clutches. The King has deputed the power of sentencing to death to four of his chiefs. Should any man offend one of these, or any of the laws of the country, he is promptly asked to go for a walk with JOKILIBOVO. This walk excites very little notice among the people beyond the culprit's own immediate circle of friends. The direction of the walk is always the same, it ends on "Execution Hill" with a blow from JOKILIBOVO's "knobkerry," or club.

JOKILIBOVO stated, in conversation, that the case of a man resisting is almost unknown, though on rare occasions they will try to escape by running away, but it is always a vain attempt. There is a great knack in delivering the death-blow aright, as the negro's cranium is not given to being affected by ordinary knocks unless well planted at the base of the skull. The victim stands to receive the blow, and in this way a man who at the last moment has shrunk from his fate, has caused the blow to fall indirectly, and has consequently been knocked down once or twice before he was actually put out of his misery.

THE KINGS OF THE WORLD.*

THIS is the title of a volume of poems, religious and otherwise, from the pen of Mr. ROBERT SMITH, a contemporary worker with JOSEPH STURGE, GEORGE THOMPSON, and other Anti-Slavery leaders, now passed away. Among the

* London: JAMES NISBET.

Kings of the World a foremost place is given to THOMAS CLARKSON, in the principal poem—

"For showing nations how,
To free th' enthralled"—

A long poem is devoted to "A Gallery of Anti-Slavery Worthies" of England and America, and in it are recorded the names of many who were in the thickest of the fight against Slavery and the Slave-trade, but whose names are now almost forgotten, for a new generation has arisen which knew them not.

The noble efforts of the English and American Quakers, in the cause of human freedom, find full recognition in the tuneful pages of the work, whilst memorial verses are inscribed to DR. LIVINGSTONE, GENERAL GORDON, BISHOPS PATTESON and HANNINGTON, and the Missionary COMBER.

We regret that space prevents our inserting any of the poems, but when we state that out of the three manuscript poems selected by Sir ROUNDELL PALMER for insertion in his *Book of Praise*, one was from the pen of the author of the *Kings of the World*, we feel that further testimony is not needed to draw the attention of our readers to the volume before us.

LADIES' NEGRO'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

THE Sixty-fourth Report of this well-known Society is noteworthy, from its containing the resignation of two ladies, who, in conjunction with their respective husbands, have been for so many years the staunch supporters of the Anti-Slavery movement. We allude to Mrs. JOSEPH STURGE, widow of the well-known abolitionist, and of Mrs. EDMUND STURGE, wife of the present Chairman of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY. The latter lady has been for more than fifty years a member of the Committee of the LADIES' NEGRO'S FRIEND SOCIETY, established at Birmingham in the year 1825, and of which body she has held for so many years the office of President.

We are glad to find that both these ladies will continue their interest in the Society, although they are not able to undertake the prominent offices formerly held by them. In former years the income of the Society was mostly devoted to the cause of education in the West India Islands, but it is now considered that, owing to the Government aid given to those Colonies, a much larger portion of the funds may be devoted to the cause of Africa.

Besides the grant which has been made for some time to the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, we are glad to note that the CAIRO HOME FOR FREED WOMEN SLAVES has received a donation, besides gifts to the Basle Mission Schools on the West Coast of Africa, the Blantyre, Livingstone, and Congo Missions, Madagascar and Liberia.

We trust that this useful Society, under its new President, and the other well-known ladies of the Committee, may have many years of usefulness still before it.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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
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